

Kanji of the Day / 今日の漢字 / 今天的漢字

This is my art project idea, as well as my own Kanji study method. Everything will be written in Japanese furigana (kanji with hiragana on top for aid in pronunciation). Let's see what happens :P

これは僕のアートプロジェクトのアイデアです。これも僕の漢字の勉強の仕方です。全てがふりがなで書かれる予定です。何が起こるか見てみましょう！（笑）

This project can be shared with anyone with this link:

<http://www.ualberta.ca/~quangvin/kotd/>

Sources:

<http://jisho.org/>

<http://www.tanos.co.uk/jlpt/>

<http://kotobank.jp/>

http://www.excite.co.jp/dictionary/japanese_english/

<http://kakijun.jp/>

<http://www.yamasa.org/ocjs/kanjidic.nsf/SearchKanji3?OpenForm>

<http://www.yellowbridge.com/chinese/character-dictionary.php>

<http://www.archchinese.com/>

<http://stroke-order.learningweb.moe.edu.tw/home.do>

<http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php>

<http://www.cantonese.sheik.co.uk/dictionary/>

<http://www.iso10646hk.net/jp/index.jsp>

<http://baike.baidu.com/>

<http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/>

<http://www.jukuu.com/index.php>

<http://www.weblio.jp/>

Personal experience

Far East Chinese-English Dictionary

Shogakukan Pocket Progressive English-Japanese / Japanese-English Dictionary

Public links:

Part 1 (06/08/2011 - 04/11/2012): <http://tinyurl.com/3mwdtrw> (Yellow, 618 new)

Part 2 (07/08/2012 - 12/24/2012): <http://tinyurl.com/8xamblm> (Yellow, 682 new)

Part 3 (01/01/2013 - 06/24/2013): <http://tinyurl.com/bar69w4> (Yellow, 500 new)

Part 4 (07/01/2013 - 12/31/2013): <http://tinyurl.com/n7v6zkn> (Orange/Green, 200 new)

Part 5 (01/01/2014 - 06/30/2015): <http://tinyurl.com/l3fe3m6> (Orange/Green/Blue/Pink/Yellow, 600 new)

開始

June 8, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kaishi

Japanese Meaning: start / commence / begin / initiate

Parts:

kai(a, hira, bira) - open / unfold / unseal

shi(haji) - begin / commence / start

*Note 1: Many characters in Japanese have different pronunciations when used alone. I will put the common ones I've seen in brackets in the "parts" description.

Chinese Pinyin: kāishǐ

Chinese Meaning: start / commence / begin / beginning / initial / initiate

Parts:

kāi - to open (door, bottle, etc.) / turn on / switch on / to start / initiate / begin / to boil / to write out (a medical prescription, etc.) / make a list of / to operate (vehicle) / to drive / depart / leave / set up / to run / hold (meeting, exhibition, etc.) / aside / apart / away / (Cantonese) verb particle marking habitual aspect

shǐ - beginning / begin / start / first / then / only then

*Note 2: 2 variants of the second character are 始 and 迄

新聞

June 9, 2011

*Note: Sometimes, kanji between Japanese and Chinese have very different meanings. I will include a simple conversion in each section.

Japanese Romaji: shinbun

Japanese Meaning: newspaper

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 報紙(bàozhǐ)

Parts:

shin(atara, ara, nii) - new / neo-

bun(ki, mon) - ask / hear / listen

Chinese Pinyin: xīnwén

Chinese Meaning: the news

Chinese to Japanese Translation: ニュース (nyuusu)

Parts:

xīn - new / newly / recent / fresh / novel / modern / beginning / starting / neo- / meso- (chemistry)

wén - hear / have heard of / to smell / to sniff at / news / story / make known / well-known / famous / reputation / repute / fame

問題

June 10, 2011

Japanese Romaji: mondai

Japanese Meaning: problem / question / issue / matter

Parts:

mon(to, toi, ton) - to ask / problem / question / inquire / query / counter for questions

dai - subject / topic / title / theme / problem (on a test) / question / counter for questions (on a test)

Chinese Pinyin: wèntí

Chinese Meaning: problem / question / issue / topic

Parts:

wèn - to ask (about) / inquire after / interrogate / examine / hold responsible

tí - topic / subject / problem for discussion / theme / title of a composition or speech / headline / to

inscribe / write / to sign / to mention / commentaries / notes / exam question / signal / sign / forehead /

end / top / the ornamental woodwork under the eaves of public buildings

複雑/雜

June 11, 2011

*Note 1: Many characters in Japanese are variants of Chinese characters (such as the second one here). I will include both versions, separated by a slash and marked with (J) for Japanese and (C) for Chinese.

Japanese Romaji: fukuzatsu

Japanese Meaning: complex / complicated

Parts:

fuku - compound / double / duplicate / multiple / diplo- / doubles (tennis, etc.) / place betting (in horse racing, etc.)

zatsu(maji, zou) - miscellaneous / rough / crude / sloppy / messy / miscellany (classification of Japanese poetry unrelated to the seasons or to love)

Chinese Pinyin: fùzá

Chinese Meaning: complex / complicated / difficult

Parts:

fù - repeat / duplicate / double / diplo- / plural / overlap / complex / compound (interest, etc.) / composite / lined clothes

zá - mixed / blended / mix / blend / mingle / miscellaneous / various / motley / medley / petty and numerous

*Note 2: another variant of the second character is 襍

简单/單

June 12, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kantan

Japanese Meaning: simple

Parts:

kan - brevity / simplicity

tan(hitoe) - simple / single / singles (in tennis) / winning system (as in horse racing) / one layer / onefold

Chinese Pinyin: jiǎndān

Chinese Meaning: simple

Parts:

jiǎn - simple / letter (note) / designate

dān - simple / single / individual / lone

参加/參

June 13, 2011

Japanese Romaji: sankā

Japanese Meaning: participation / attend / commitment / join / enter

Parts:

san(mai, zan) - be defeated / coming / going / visit / visiting / nonplussed / die / be madly in love / three (used in legal documents)

ka(kuwa) - add / addition / increase / include / join / Canada

Chinese Pinyin: cānjiā

Chinese Meaning: participation / attend / take part / to join

Parts:

cān(sān, shēn) - take part in / to participate / to join / enter / to attend / intervene / visit / call on / pay respects / refer / consult / search into / to counsel / impeach / censure / unequal / varied / irregular / uneven / not uniform / ginseng / three (used in legal documents)

jiā - add to / plus / increase / augment / append / (used after an adverb such as 不, 大, 稍 etc, and before a disyllabic verb, to indicate that the action of the verb is applied to something or somebody previously mentioned) / to apply (restrictions etc.) to (somebody) / to give (support, consideration etc.) to (something) / Canada

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: 7 other variants of the first character are 叅 𠂔 𠂕 𠂖 𠂗 𠂘 𠂙

遊戲/戲

June 14, 2011

Japanese Romaji: yuugi

Japanese Meaning: game / play / sports

Parts:

yuu(aso) - to play

gi(za, ja, tawamu, ge) - frolic / play / sport

Chinese Pinyin: yóuxì

Chinese Meaning: game / to play (a game) / to play around / to have fun

Parts:

yóu - wander / roam / to walk / to tour / travel / march / play / amusement / befriend / associate with

xì - to play / have fun / to sport / enjoy oneself / a trick / tease / jest / play a joke on / theatrical play / theatre / theater / drama / a show / movie / opera

*Note: a variant of the first character is 游 (which is also a separate character meaning “swim”).

Another variant of the second character is 戲.

研究

June 15, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kenkyuu

Japanese Meaning: study / research / investigation

Parts:

ken(to) - polish / grind / sharpen / study

kyuu(kiwa) - investigate / research / study

Chinese Pinyin: yánjiū

Chinese Meaning: study / research / investigation

Parts:

yán - grind / sharpen / study / research

jiū - investigate / research / study

勉強/勉

June 16, 2011

Japanese Romaji: benkyou

Japanese Meaning: study / studying / studies / learn / diligence

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 學習 (xuéxí)

Parts:

ben(tsuto) - endeavor / exertion

kyou(kowa, shi, shitata, tsuyo, dzuyo, gou, ne) - strong / powerful / potent / durable / a little over / a little more than / powerhouse / one of the biggest / one of the most powerful

Chinese Pinyin: miǎnqiǎng

Chinese Meaning: grudgingly / reluctantly / strenuously / to do with difficulty / to force somebody to do something / in a forced manner / barely enough / barely manage

Chinese to Japanese Translation: しぶしぶ (shibushibu)

Parts:

miǎn - endeavor / exertion / to exhort / to make an effort / strive / urge / encourage

qiǎng(qiáng, jiàng) - to force / to compel / coerce / to strive / to make an effort / strive / try hard to / strong / powerful / better than / slightly more than / plus / resolute / energetic / vigorous / violent / best in their category / strengthen / make strong / capable / of a high standard / endeavor / defiant / stubborn / unyielding

*Note: another variant of the first character is 勸. 2 variants of the second character are 彊 and 犖

留学/學

June 17, 2011

Japanese Romaji: ryuugaku

Japanese Meaning: studying abroad (usually at the university level)

Parts:

ryuu(to, todo, ru) - detain / fasten / halt / stop / to remain

gaku(mana) - learning / learn / study / education / school / scholarship / erudition / science / knowledge / (suffix) study of

Chinese Pinyin: liúxué

Chinese Meaning: studying abroad

Parts:

liú - detain / halt / stop / to remain / to retain / to stay / to leave (a message, etc.) / to keep / to preserve / to reserve / to set aside / leave behind / bequeath / accept / take / ask somebody to stay / keep somebody from leaving / pay attention to / concentrate on / study abroad / study overseas

xué - learning / to learn / to study / imitate / to copy / school / college / academy / knowledge / erudition / science / subject / discipline / branch of learning / (suffix) study of / -ology / (Cantonese)

relate / report speech / (Cantonese) like / similar to

*Note 1: 3 variants of the first character are 留 溜 雷 2 more variants of the second character are 學 and 學

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

試験/験

June 18, 2011

Japanese Romaji: shiken

Japanese Meaning: examination / test / study / trial / experiment

Parts:

shi(kokoro, tame) - attempt / experiment / test / try

ken(tame, gen, shirushi) - effect / efficacy / omen / sign / indication / testing / verification

Chinese Pinyin: shìyàn

Chinese Meaning: experiment / test

Parts:

shì - experiment / test / try

yàn - effect / test / verify

*Note 1: In Chinese, I only see this used for doing experiments. For writing tests or exams, I use 考試 (kǎoshì).

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 驗

父母

June 19, 2011

Japanese Romaji: fubo / chichihaha

Japanese Meaning: father and mother / parents

Parts:

fu(chichi, tou, toto) - father

bo(haha, kaa, ba, mo) - mother

*Note: in Japanese, お祖母さん (grandmother, or female senior citizen) is read as “obaasan”; お祖父さん (grandfather, or male senior citizen) is read as “ojiisan”;

Chinese Pinyin: fùmǔ

Chinese Meaning: father and mother / parents

Parts:

fù - father / male relative of a senior generation / a term of respect for an elderly man / (archaism) one's courtesy name

mǔ - mother / female parent / elderly female relative / female elders (in the clan or among relations) / origin / parent / source / (of animals) female

鉛筆

June 20, 2011

Japanese Romaji: enpitsu

Japanese Meaning: pencil

Parts:

en(namari) - lead (element)

pitsu(fude, hitsu) - writing brush / painting brush / handwriting / writing / a pen / a thing written by a certain person / calligraphy

Chinese Pinyin: qiānbǐ

Chinese Meaning: lead pencil

Parts:

qiān - lead (element)

bǐ - pen / pencil / writing brush / to write or compose / handwriting / writing / stroke / the strokes of Chinese characters / technique of writing, calligraphy, drawing or painting / counter for sums of money (debt, etc.) / counter for deals (business transactions, etc.)

*Note 1: The second character usually describes any writing utensil in Chinese, but in Japanese usually specifies a writing brush.

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 鉛

公園

June 21, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kouen

Japanese Meaning: public park

Parts:

kou(ooyake) - public / governmental / official / formal / open / prince / duke / lord / sir / familiar or derogatory suffix (after a name, etc.)

en(sono) - garden (especially man-made) / park / orchard / plantation / yard / farm / place / location

Chinese Pinyin: gōngyuán

Chinese Meaning: public park / public gardens

Parts:

gōng - public / collectively owned / common / make public / open to all / international (e.g. high seas, metric system, calendar) / fair / just / unselfish / unbiased / equitable / official / prince / Duke, highest of five orders of nobility / honorable (gentlemen) / a respectful salutation / grandfather on mother's side / father-in-law / father of one's husband / male animal / office / official duties

yuán - garden / park / orchard / plantation / recreation ground / land used for growing plants / site used for public recreation

*Note: a variant of the second character is 園

活動

June 22, 2011

Japanese Romaji: katsudou

Japanese Meaning: action / activity / work / operation

Parts:

katsu(i) - living / lively / life / being helped / judo art of resuscitation

dou(ugo) - motion / movement / move / action / shake / to shift / change / confusion

Chinese Pinyin: huódòng

Chinese Meaning: action / activity / to exercise / to move about / to operate / to use connections
(personal influence) / loose / shaky / active / movable / campaign / maneuver / behavior

Parts:

huó - living / to live / alive / lively / active / vivid / exist / survive / movable / moving / flexible / work /
workmanship / job / livelihood / save the life of / keep alive

dòng - motion / movement / (of something) to move / to set in movement / action / to act / to do /
happen / to displace / to make use of / to stir (emotions) / touch (one's heart) / arouse / excite / to
move (emotions) / to alter / change / take up / eat or drink

破壊/壊

June 23, 2011

Japanese Romaji: hakai

Japanese Meaning: destruction / demolition / disruption / software crash

Parts:

ha(yabu, pa) - break / destroy / defeat / frustrate / rip / tear / to rend / to cut / (in gagaku or noh)

middle section of a song / (slang) spend all the money one has

kai(kowa, e) - break / demolition / destroy

Chinese Pinyin: pòhuài

Chinese Meaning: destruction / damage / to wreck / to break / to destroy / to ruin

Parts:

pò - to break / ruin / to destroy / rupture / to damage / broken / damaged / worn out / torn / ruined / to rout / drives-out / drives-away / banishes / split or cleave / to cut / to part / to get rid of / to break with / to defeat / to beat / to capture (a city, etc.) / to expose the truth of / lay bare / crack (a case) / to solve / spend (money, time, efforts) / (colloquial) low in quality

huài - bad / rotten / spoiled (food) / spoil / ruin / destroy / broken / to break down

世界

June 24, 2011

Japanese Romaji: sekai

Japanese Meaning: the world / society / the universe

Parts:

se(yo, sei) - generation / public / society / world

kai(sakai) - border / boundary / world / area / region / spot / space / environment / psychological state / mental state / (biological) kingdom / partition of land

Chinese Pinyin: shìjiè

Chinese Meaning: the world

Parts:

shì - generation / era / society / person's life

jiè - boundary / limit / domain / the world

*Note: 2 variants of the first character are 世 and 丐

太陽

June 25, 2011

Japanese Romaji: taiyou

Japanese Meaning: sun / solar

Parts:

tai(futo) - big around / plump / thick

you(hi) - daytime / sunshine / male / positive / 'yang' principle

*Note: 陽炎 (heat haze) has a special reading of “kagerou”

Chinese Pinyin: tàiyáng

Chinese Meaning: sun

Parts:

tài - very / too / much / big / extremely / excessive

yáng - daytime / sunshine / male / positive(electricity) / bright / 'yang' principle

頭痛

June 26, 2011

Japanese Romaji: zutsuu

Japanese Meaning: headache

Parts:

zu(atama, kashira, gashira, kaburi, koube, tou, juu) - head / mind / brain / intellect / top / hair (on one's head) / boss / leader / top structural component of a kanji / counter for large animals (e.g. head of cattle, horses, etc.) / (after a noun) top of ... / head of ... / (after the -masu stem of a verb) the moment that ..
tsuu(ita) - bruise / damage / hurt / pain / ache / -algia / ouch / ow

Chinese Pinyin: tóutòng

Chinese Meaning: headache / cephalalgia

Parts:

tóu(tou) - head / hairstyle / hair / the top / first / start / end / two ends of something / beginning or end / a stub / remnant / chief / boss / leader (of a group) / side / party / aspect / leading / counter for large animals / counter for certain domestic animals (pigs, livestock, etc.) / suffix for certain objects, location words, and adjectives (to form a noun)

tòng - hurt / pain / ache / painful / aching / physically or mentally sore / sorry / sad / sorrow / sorrowful / poignant / bitterly / bitter / heartily / to one's heart's content / deeply / thoroughly

作品

June 27, 2011

Japanese Romaji: sakuhin

Japanese Meaning: work (e.g. book, film, composition, etc.) / performance / production / opus

Parts:

saku(tsuku, dzuku, sa) - build / make / prepare / production / a work / a harvest / a crop

hin(shina, pin) - article / item / thing / goods / stock / product / commodity / quality / flirtatiousness /

coquetry / dignity / elegance / grace / class / refinement / counter for meal courses, dishes, etc. /

counter for items (of food, etc.)

Chinese Pinyin: zuòpǐn

Chinese Meaning: work (e.g. book, film, composition, etc.) / performance / production / opus

Parts:

zuò - to do / make / works / writings / compose / write / act / perform / engage in an activity / pretend /

to regard as / take something for / take somebody for / to grow / to rise / stand up / to feel / pretend /

feign / affect / workshop / (Cantonese) seize / rob / blackmail / (Cantonese) fabricate / cook up /

embellish

pǐn - article / product / commodity / goods / kind / grade / rank / personality / character / disposition /

nature / temperament / variety / to taste something / to sample / to criticize / to comment / to judge /

to size up / appraise / rate / find out / a rank or grade in the government service in former times / fret

(of a stringed musical instrument)

夢想

June 28, 2011

Japanese Romaji: musou

Japanese Meaning: (figuratively) to dream of / dream / dreaming / daydream / fantasize / vision / reverie / having an ambition

Parts:

mu(yume) - dream / illusion / vision

sou(so, omo) - concept / idea / think / thought / conception / (Buddhism) samjna (perception)

Chinese Pinyin: mèngxiǎng

Chinese Meaning: (figuratively) to dream of / dream / fantasize / fantasise / hope / wish / wishful thinking

Parts:

mèng - dream / vision / visionary / wishful (thinking)

xiǎng - to think / to believe / to suppose / consider / speculate / to plan / to wish / to want / would like to / remember with longing / to miss (feel wistful about the absence of somebody or something) / hope / expect

*Note: a variant of the first character is 夢

雷電

June 29, 2011

Japanese Romaji: raiden

Japanese Meaning: thunder and lightning

Parts:

rai(kaminari, ikazuchi) - thunder / a sound / lightning bolt / thunderbolt

den - lightning / electricity

Chinese Pinyin: léidiàn

Chinese Meaning: thunder and lightning

Parts:

léi - thunder / mine (explosive) / (internet slang) terrifying / terrific

diàn - electricity / electric / electrical / electro / lightning / short for cable or telegram

*Note: a variant of the first character is 雷

非常

June 30, 2011

Japanese Romaji: hijou

Japanese Meaning: extraordinary / very / unusual / emergency

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 緊急 (jǐnjí) for the meaning of “emergency”

Parts:

hi(ara) - mistake / fault / error / going poorly / being disadvantageous / being unfavourable / negative / injustice / non- / un- / an- / in-

jou(tsune, toko) - normal / ordinary / regular / usual state of things / usual / always / ever / endless / eternal

*Note 1: 似非 (sham) is read as “ese”

Chinese Pinyin: fēicháng

Chinese Meaning: extraordinary / extreme / extremely / very / highly / exceptional / unusual / special / not the run of the mill

Parts:

fēi - mistake / wrong / incorrect / unjustified / injustice / wrongdoing / not / negative / to reproach or blame / censure / criticize / oppose / to not be / be not / non- / un- / in- / (colloquial) to insist on / simply must / unless / have got to

cháng - common / general / normal / ordinary / constant / frequent / frequently / regular / regularly / often / usual / always / ever / long / lasting / permanent (jobs, etc.) / eternal / ordinarily / usually / on ordinary occasions / rule / principle

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 意

音樂/樂

July 1, 2011

Japanese Romaji: ongaku

Japanese Meaning: music

Parts:

on(oto, ne, in) - noise / sound / report / tone / pitch / pronunciation / note (music) / fame /

Chinese-derived character reading

gaku(tano, raku) - enjoyable / comfort / ease / music

Chinese Pinyin: yīnyuè

Chinese Meaning: music

Parts:

yīn - noise / sound / note (music) / voice / tone / pitch / accent / syllable / pronunciation / timbre / news / information / tidings (correspondence) / reading (phonetic value of a character)

yuè(lè) - music / enjoyable / pleasant / agreeable / pleasing / comfortable / comfort / happy / happiness / glad / joy / joyful / joyous / laugh / cheerful / elated / contented / delighted / pleased / to love / be fond of / to delight in

季節

July 2, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kisetsu

Japanese Meaning: season

Parts:

ki - seasons / seasonal word or phrase (in haiku) / year

setsu(fushi, bushi, sechi) - occasion / season / time / period / (linguistic) clause / stanza / tune / melody / verse / section (of a literary work) / paragraph / passage / point / honor / a person's principles / joint / knob / knot (in wood) / knuckle / node (of a plant stem) / (taxonomical) section / part / notable characteristic / characteristic way of speaking

Chinese Pinyin: jìjié

Chinese Meaning: season / period / time

Parts:

jì - quarter of a year / season / the last month of a season / fourth or youngest amongst brothers / counter for seasonal crop yields

jié(jiē) - festival / holiday / Day (used at the end of holidays) / seasons / passage / paragraph / section / segment / part / knot / node / joint / link / to economize / economise / curtail / to save / to abridge / moral integrity / principle / fidelity / constancy / uprightness / beats (music) / rhythm / time / restrain / control / restrict / counter for segments, e.g. lessons, train wagons, biblical verses

*Note: 2 variants of the second character are 節 and 節

憂鬱

July 3, 2011

Japanese Romaji: yuuutsu

Japanese Meaning: depression / melancholy / dejection / gloom / sullen

Parts:

yuu(u, ure) - be anxious / apprehensive / grieve / lament / melancholy / sad / unhappy

utsu(u, fusa) - depression / gloom / melancholy / low spirits

Chinese Pinyin: yōuyù

Chinese Meaning: depression / melancholy / dejection / gloom / sullen

Parts:

yōu - be anxious / apprehensive / grieve / lament / melancholy / sad / unhappy

yù - dense (growth) / luxuriant / thick / moody / melancholy

*Note 1: 2 variants of the second character are 鬱 and 鬱

*Note 2: I was told that "utsu"/"yù" is the most difficult character to write in both Chinese and Japanese :P

(Tomorrow's word is less gloomy)

歡喜/歡

July 4, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kanki

Japanese Meaning: delight / great joy / rejoice

Parts:

kan(yoroko) - delight / joy / enjoyment / pleasure

ki(yoroko) - rejoice / take pleasure in

Chinese Pinyin: huānxǐ

Chinese Meaning: delighted / joyous / joyful / happy / to like / to be fond of

Parts:

huān - happy / pleased / glad / joy / jubilant / joyous / joys / pleasures / to enjoy/ take pleasure in /
active and energetic / quick / in full swing / lover

xǐ - like / love / to be fond of / liking / to enjoy / be keen on / to be happy / to feel pleased / happiness /
joyful / delightful / pleasant / pleasure / delight / glad / joyful thing / happy event / worth celebrating /
pregnancy

*Note: three other variants of the first character are 驩, 懽, 懽. 2 variants of the second character are 懽 and 喜. The second character also has some non-standard forms: 𪛗, 𪛘 (double happiness).

衣服

July 5, 2011

Japanese Romaji: ifuku

Japanese Meaning: clothes / clothing

Parts:

i(kinu, ginu, koromo, gi, kaku, e) - clothes / clothing / garment / dress / dressing / gown / robe / coating
(e.g. glaze, batter, icing)

fuku(puku, buku) - clothing / clothes (especially Western clothes) / admit / obey / discharge / counter
for doses of medicine, gulps of tea, drags of a cigarette, puffs of tobacco, etc. / (archaism) mourning
clothes / mourning / period of mourning

Chinese Pinyin: yīfu / yīfú

Chinese Meaning: clothes / clothing

Parts:

yī(yì) - clothes / clothing / a dress / garment / dressing / covering / covers / coating / membrane / outer
layers / cover / skin or peel of fruit / (animal) hide / pelt / furs / (human) placenta / to dress / to wear /
to put on (clothes) / clothe / be dressed in

fu(fú, fù) - clothing / clothes / dress / garment / costumes / wear (clothes) / admit / to serve / to bear /
to undertake / to convince / obey / concede / be accustomed to / get used to / to acclimatize / to take
(medicine) / mourning clothes / to wear mourning clothes / mourning apparel / dose (counter for
medicine)

場所

July 6, 2011

Japanese Romaji: basho

Japanese Meaning: place / location

Parts:

ba(jou, chou) - place / location

sho(toko, tokoro, jo, ko) - place

Chinese Pinyin: chǎngsuǒ

Chinese Meaning: place / location / arena

Parts:

chǎng - open space / field / act of a play / stage / farm / site for a special purpose

suǒ - place / location / position / building

*Note: I recently figured out if I copied the second character (所) on the computer, it may appear as either one of these depending on which web site you go to

七夕

July 7, 2011

Japanese Romaji: tanabata / shichiseki

Japanese Meaning: Tanabata (Star Festival, "Evening of the Seventh")

Parts:

tana(shichi, nana, nano, nanu) - seven / hepta-

bata(seki, yuu) - evening

Chinese Pinyin: qīxī

Chinese Meaning: Qixi (Double Seven Festival, "The Night of Sevens")

Parts:

qī - seven

xī(xì) - evening / night / dusk / sunset / slanted / oblique / meet in the evening

*Note: The Japanese Tanabata festival is actually derived from the Chinese Qixi Festival. Tanabata is July 7 and Qixi is August 6 this year (July 7 in the lunar calendar). In Japan, wishes are written on paper (短冊 tanzaku) and hung on bamboo.

地図/圖

July 8, 2011

Japanese Romaji: chizu

Japanese Meaning: map

Parts:

chi(ji) - earth / ground / land / soil / dirt / place / area / a piece of land / territory / dominion / bottom (of a package, book, crate, etc.) / the region in question / the local area / skin / texture / fabric / material / weave / base / background / one's true nature / narrative (i.e. descriptive part of a story) / real life / actuality / (in the game of Go) captured territory / noh chorus / (in Japanese dance) accompaniment music / (in Japanese music) basic phrase (usually repetitive) / base part (of multiple shamisens)
zu(haka, to) - drawing / picture / illustration / diagram / figure / chart / graph / graphic / view / map / sight / scene / plan / unexpected / accidentally

Chinese Pinyin: dìtú

Chinese Meaning: map

Parts:

dì(de) - earth / land / soil / ground / region / territory / place / field / district / location / site / position / situation / (Cantonese) (suffix) plurality marker for pronouns, less used than alternative 哋 / -ly / used after an adjective to form an adverbial phrase / structural particle: used before a verb or adjective, linking it to preceding modifying adverbial adjunct
tú - diagram / chart / map / picture / portrait / drawing / a painting / to seek / to pursue / to plan / intention / purpose / aim / to scheme / conspire / to attempt

*Note: a variant of the first character is 墜

迷宫

July 9, 2011

Japanese Romaji: meikyuu

Japanese Meaning: mystery / maze / labyrinth

Parts:

mei(mayo) - astray / be perplexed / err / illusion / in doubt / lost

kyuu(miya, kuu, guu) - palace / Shinto shrine / imperial residence / member of the imperial family / princess / constellations / zodiacal sign / tonic (of the Japanese & Chinese pentatonic scale) / ancient Chinese punishment (castration for men, or confinement for women)

Chinese Pinyin: mígōng

Chinese Meaning: maze / labyrinth

Parts:

mí - vague / indistinct / dim / bewitch / charm / enchant / fascinate / infatuate / fan / enthusiast / fiend / be crazy about / to bewilder / lost / confused

gōng - palace / temple / dwelling / an enclose / castration (as corporal punishment) / first note in pentatonic scale

眼鏡

July 10, 2011

Japanese Romaji: megane

Japanese Meaning: glasses / eyeglasses / spectacles / judgement / judgment / discrimination / discernment / insight

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 判斷 (pànduàn) for “judgment”

Parts:

me(manako, gan, gen) - eye / eyeball / eyesight / pupil / sight / vision / look / stare / glance / an experience / viewpoint / stitch / texture / weave / ordinal number suffix / somewhat / -ish / (archaism) pupil and (dark) iris of the eye / (archaism) insight, perceptivity, power of observation / (archaism) look, field of vision / (archaism) core, center, centre, essence

gane(kagami, kyou, kei) - mirror / speculum / barrel-head / lid of a saké barrel / the panel at the back of a Noh stage that is painted with an image of an old pine tree / round rice-cake offering (kagami mochi)

*Note 1: this is the only word in Japanese where the second character has the reading “gane”

Chinese Pinyin: yǎnjìng

Chinese Meaning: glasses / eyeglasses / spectacles

Parts:

yǎn - eye / look / glance / ocular / eyelet / small hole / tiny hole / opening / aperture / insight / salient point / crux (of a matter) / trap (in chess) / unaccented beat (in opera) / counter for big hollow things (wells, stoves, pots, springs, etc.) / (Cantonese) counter for needles, nails, lamps, etc. / (Cantonese) eyesight

jìng - mirror / lens / glass / glasses

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 鏡

国際/國

July 11, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kokusai

Japanese Meaning: international

Parts:

koku(kuni, goku) - country / nation / (the) state / region / home (i.e. hometown, home country)

sai(kiwa, giwa) - border / boundary / edge / verge / brink / side / on the occasion of / circumstances /
adventurous / dangerous / indecent / time / moment of / when

Chinese Pinyin: guójì

Chinese Meaning: international

Parts:

guó - country / nation / national / (the) state / nation-state / kingdom / governmental / Chinese

jì - border / boundary / edge / juncture / interval / between / among / inter- / occasion / moment /
circumstances / time / to meet / to meet with (circumstances)

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: 4 other variants of the first character are 囯國圀圉

料理

July 12, 2011

Japanese Romaji: ryouri

Japanese Meaning: cooking / cookery / cuisine / dealing with something / to attend to / handling

Parts:

ryou - fee / materials

ri(kotowari) - reason / logic / truth / justice / arrangement

Chinese Pinyin: liàolǐ

Chinese Meaning: cooking / cookery / cuisine / dealing with something / to attend to / handling

Parts:

liào - conjecture / estimate / infer / anticipate / guess / foresee / consider / manage / handle / care / materials / ingredients

lǐ - reason / logic / cause / truth / justice / law / principles / doctrine / theory / science / arrange / administer / govern / manage / to put in order / to tidy up / operate / regulate / run / reply / answer / respond / texture / grain (of wood) / pay attention to

光荣/榮

July 13, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kouei

Japanese Meaning: honor / honour / glory / privilege

Parts:

kou(hikari, hika) - light / ray

ei(ha, ba, saka) - flourish / thriving / glory / honor / honour / prosperity / splendor / splendour

Chinese Pinyin: guāngróng

Chinese Meaning: honor / glory / glorious

Parts:

guāng - light / brilliant / brightness / shine / bright / light rays / beam / glossy / smooth / glory / glorious
/ honor / exhaust / use up / alone / only / merely / bare / naked

róng - flourish / thriving / luxuriant / prosperity / prosper / glory / honor / honorable / glorious /
creditable

*Note: 2 variants of the first character are 光 and 英

手袋

July 14, 2011

Japanese Romaji: tebukuro

Japanese Meaning: glove / mitten / mitt

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 手套(shǒutào)

Parts:

te(ta, de, shu, zu) - hand / arm / forepaw / foreleg / handle / worker / help / trouble / care / effort / means / way / trick / a move / a play / technique / workmanship / handwriting / a kind / a type / a sort / one's hands / one's possession / ability to cope / hand (of cards) / direction

bukuro(fukuro, tai, dai) - bag / pouch / sack / skin of an orange (and other like fruits) / dead end / plot of land surrounded by water / a segment in a fruit such as an orange / an organ of which form is like a bag

*Note 1: in Japanese, the reading of 足袋 (Japanese style socks) is “tabi”. The reading of 上手い (which has several meanings such as “skillful”, “fortunate”, “delicious”, etc.) is “umai”. (Not to be confused with 上手 (skillful), which is usually read as “jouzu”).

Chinese Pinyin: shǒudài

Chinese Meaning: handbag / purse

Chinese to Japanese Translation: ハンドバッグ (handobaggu)

Parts:

shǒu - hand / (formal) to hold / to have in one's hand / convenient / handy / portable / handwritten / personally / skill / skilled person / proficiency / person engaged in certain types of work / person skilled in certain types of work / verb measure for skill or proficiency / noun measure used in firsthand, secondhand, etc. and also for smallest tradable unit (of stocks)

dài - bag / pouch / sack / pocket / counter for bags, pouches, sacks, etc.

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 彳 A variant of the second character is 𧰨

魔法

July 15, 2011

Japanese Romaji: mahou

Japanese Meaning: magic / witchcraft / sorcery / enchantment / spellcraft / wizardry

Parts:

ma - demon / devil / evil spirit / witch / evil influence / someone who (habitually) performs some (negative) act

hou(nori, ha, ho, pou) - law / rule / act / principle / method / model / system / (linguistic) mood / dharma

Chinese Pinyin: mófǎ

Chinese Meaning: magic / witchcraft / sorcery / enchantment / wizardry

Parts:

mó - demon / devil / fiend / evil spirit / evil influence / evil power / evil ability / familiar spirit / magic power / magic / mystic / conjuring

fǎ - institution / law / rule / regulation / statute / legal / method / mode / art / ways of doing things / pattern / model after / principle / the way / Buddhist teaching / doctrines / tricks / magic arts / legalist / expert or standard (calligraphy, painting, etc.) / penalty / punishment / France / French

*Note: 3 variants of the second character are 法 灋 𠩺

有名

July 16, 2011

Japanese Romaji: yuumei

Japanese Meaning: famous / fame / well-known / renowned / celebrated

Parts:

yuu(a, u) - to have / having / to own / possess / possession / belonging / exist / existence / get to exist / happen / occur / appear / keep / maintain / (abbreviation) limited company / approximate / bhava (becoming, existence)

mei(na, myou) - name / title / position / reputation / distinguished / famous / great / noted / first name / (honorific) counter for people (usually seating, reservations and such)

Chinese Pinyin: yǒumíng

Chinese Meaning: famous / well-known / noted / renowned

Parts:

yǒu(yòu) - to have / to own / to possess / to exist / to be / there is / there are / to be present / some / (archaic) again / (archaic) and, with a remainder of (when dividing an integer by ten)

míng - name / given name / title / position / place (e.g. among winners) / rank / reputation / distinguished / fame / famous / celebrated / well-known / noted / noun (part of speech) / counter for people

時間

July 17, 2011

Japanese Romaji: jikan

Japanese Meaning: time / counter for hours

Parts:

ji(toki, doki, to, do) - hour / o'clock / (specified) time / when... / during... / occasion / moment / a case / a season / a tense / time for - / time of - / -time / (suitable) time to-
kan(ai, aida, ma, ken) - interval / period of time / space (between) / among / between / during / inter- / gap / distance / room / time (between) / pause / break / span (temporal or spatial) / stretch / period (while) / relationship (between, among) / members (within, among) / (archaism) due to, because of / 1.818 m (6 shaku) / counter used to number the gaps between pillars

Chinese Pinyin: shíjiān

Chinese Meaning: time / period

Parts:

shí - time / o'clock / fixed time / when / season / era / age / period / epoch / hours / often / frequently / proper and adequate / opportune (moment) / opportunity / timely / seasonable / fashionable / now...now... / sometimes...sometimes...

jiān(jiàn) - interval / space / between / among / relationship among / place / within a definite time or space / room / cubicle / workshop / gap / opening / break / to separate / alternate / partition / to thin out (seedlings) / to sow discontent / sow discord / drive a wedge / section of a room or lateral space between two pairs of pillars / counter for rooms, shops, houses, bedrooms, buildings, etc.

*Note: a variant of the first character is 晷 A variant of the second character is 閒

可愛

July 18, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kawai(i)

Japanese Meaning: cute / adorable / lovable / charming / lovely / pretty / dear / precious / darling / pet / cute little / tiny

Parts:

ka(be) - may / can / be able to / passable / acceptable / tolerable / fair / permitted / allowed / licensed / do not / mustn't / should not

wai(ito, mana, me, ai) - love / favorite / affection / before a common noun, expresses a sense of admiration or value: good, genuine / before a noun describing a person, expresses praise or fondness: dear, beloved

*Note 1: Many Japanese words consist of Kanji with hiragana characters next to them (okurigana). I will include the pronunciation of them in brackets in the Romaji.

Chinese Pinyin: kě'ài

Chinese Meaning: cute / adorable / lovely

Parts:

kě(kè) - may / can / be able to / -able (suffix) / possibly / to approve / to permit / agree / to suit / need (doing) / be worth (doing) / fit / around / estimated at / but / however / yet / (particle used for emphasis) certainly / very / ever / actually / at all (for emphasis)

ài - to love / be fond of / to like / be kind to / affection / kindness / benevolence / likes / be apt to / to want (an object, not an activity)

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 悉

黑白/黒

July 19, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kuroshiro / kokubyaku

Japanese Meaning: black and white / right and wrong

Parts:

kuro(koku) - black / dark / (manga slang) bad guy, 'black hat' / guilt / the guilty one / the guilty party

shiro(shira, haku, paku, byaku) - white / a white Go stone / innocence / (manga slang) good guy, 'white hat'

Chinese Pinyin: hēibái

Chinese Meaning: black and white / right and wrong / monochrome

Parts:

hēi - black / dark / evil / sinister / wicked / gloomy (face) / glum / secret / shady / unlawful / (loanword) to hack

bái - white / clear / to make clear / pure / snowy / unblemished / bright / clean / plain / empty / blank / in vain / for nothing / gratuitous / free of charge / gratis / reactionary / anti-communist / funeral / to stare coldly / to write wrong character / to state / to explain / vernacular / spoken lines in opera

必要

July 20, 2011

Japanese Romaji: hitsuyou

Japanese Meaning: necessary / needed / essential / required / indispensable / necessity / need / requirement

Parts:

hitsu(kanara) - certain / inevitable / invariably

you(i, kaname) - need / cornerstone / main point / vital point / keystone / requirement / required / necessary / pivot / key to / essence / Japanese photinia

Chinese Pinyin: bìyào

Chinese Meaning: necessary / needed / need / necessity / essential / required / indispensable

Parts:

bì - surely / most certainly / must / will / necessarily / an emphatic particle

yào(yāo) - necessary / essential / necessity / important / major / vital / essential points / main points / must / may / should / have to / to want / to ask for / wish / need / require / desire / will / shall / be about to / going to (as future auxiliary) / (used in a comparison) must be / probably / if / suppose / in case / to demand / to request / to coerce / to force / threaten

画家/畫

July 21, 2011

Japanese Romaji: gaka

Japanese Meaning: painter / artist

Parts:

ga(ega, e, kaku) - picture / drawing / painting / sketch / draw / brush-stroke / counter for strokes (of a kanji, etc.)

ka(ie, uchi, ya, ke, nchi) - family / household / home / house / residence / dwelling / lineage / family name / house (e.g. of Tokugawa) / expert / professional / performer / -ist (used after a noun indicating someone's occupation, pursuits, disposition, etc.) / -er / (something) shop / somebody who sells (something) or works as (something) / somebody with a (certain) personality trait / roof

Chinese Pinyin: huàjiā

Chinese Meaning: painter / artist

Parts:

huà - draw / paint / sketch / write / painting / picture / drawing / delineate / delimit / to mark / plan / design / brush-stroke / stroke of a Chinese character / counter for paintings / something decorated with paintings or pictures

jiā - family / home / house / residence / specialist (of an art or science) / professional / expert / performer / noun suffix for specialists in some activity such as musician or revolutionary, corresponds to English -ist, -er, -ary or -ian / a school of thought / refers to the philosophical schools of pre-Han China / counter for families or businesses

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: another variant of the first character is 畫 The Chinese version of the first character is a variant of 畫 A Chinese variant of the second character is 傢

全部

July 22, 2011

Japanese Romaji: zenbu

Japanese Meaning: all / entire / whole / altogether / complete / everything

Parts:

zen(sube, matta) - all / complete / entire / whole / overall / fulfill / pan- / omni- / toti-

bu(he, be) - part / portion / component / divide / element / section / division / department (in an organization) / class / bureau / club / category / a copy / counter for copies of a newspaper or magazine / hereditary occupational group (Yamato period)

Chinese Pinyin: quánbù

Chinese Meaning: all / entire / whole / altogether / complete

Parts:

quán -perfect / all / complete / entire / every / everything / whole / total / intact / absolute / maintain / to keep whole or intact

bù - part / portion / section / division / department / cabinet ministry / bureau / board / class / sort / genus / troops / volume / complete work / novel / writing / lead / head / district / counter for works of literature, films, machines, etc.

*Note: a variant of the second character is 部

牛肉

July 23, 2011

Japanese Romaji: gyuuniku

Japanese Meaning: beef / cow meat

Parts:

gyuu(ushi) - cow / bull / ox / oxen / cattle / beef

niku(shishi) - meat / flesh / the physical body (as opposed to the spirit) / thickness / ink pad

*Note 1: in Japanese, 蝸牛 (snail) has the readings “katatsumuri” or “kagyuu”

Chinese Pinyin: niúròu

Chinese Meaning: beef

Parts:

niú - cow / bull / ox / cattle / stubborn / headstrong (person) / arrogant / (slang) (expletive) awesome

ròu - meat / flesh / physical / carnal / meat or pulp (of fruit) / meat of animals / flesh and blood /

dearest (as owns children) / slow-motion

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 𪚩

出口

July 24, 2011

Japanese Romaji: deguchi

Japanese Meaning: exit / gateway / way out / outlet / leak / vent

Parts:

de(i, da, shutsu, sui) - come out / go out / coming out / going out / outflow / efflux / emerging / rising (of the sun or moon) / exit / leave / protrude / put out / attending (work) / appearing (on stage) / one's turn to go on / start / beginning / origins / background / person (or item) originating from ... / graduate of... / native of... / member of ... (lineage) / architectural member that projects outward / highest point of the stern of a ship / amount (comprising something) / amount of time or effort required to do something / being born into (a certain family) / being a native of (a particular place)

guchi(kuchi, ku, kou) - mouth / opening / hole / gap / orifice / mouth (of a bottle) / spout / nozzle / mouthpiece / gate / door / entrance / exit / speaking / speech / talk (i.e. gossip) / taste / palate / mouth (to feed) / opening (i.e. vacancy) / available position / invitation / summons / a kind / a sort / a type / opening (i.e. beginning) / counter for mouthfuls, shares (of money), and swords / counter for people or implements

*Note 1: in Japanese, 出雲 is the name of a place called "Izumo".

Chinese Pinyin: chūkǒu

Chinese Meaning: exit / gateway / way out / outlet / escapes / vent / off-ramp / to speak / to export / (of a ship) to leave port

Parts:

chū - come out / go out / exit / leave / send out / stand / produce / reproduce / to occur / to go beyond / to rise / to put forth / to happen / counter for dramas, plays, operas, etc.

kǒu - mouth / opening / open end / entrance / gate / person / a certain article (as a cistern, a big jar, etc) / edge or blade of a knife / crack / counter for things with mouths (people, domestic animals, cannons, wells, etc.) / counter for bites or mouthfuls

*Note 2: a Chinese variant of the first character is 齣 Another variant is 出

報告

July 25, 2011

Japanese Romaji: houkoku

Japanese Meaning: report / information

Parts:

hou(muku) - news / report / information / tell / announce / retribution / reward

koku(tsu) - announce / inform / tell / revelation

Chinese Pinyin: bàogào

Chinese Meaning: to report / to inform / to make known / speech / talk / lecture

Parts:

bào - news / to report / a report / newspaper / periodical / journal / tell / inform / announce /
recompense / repay / revenge / to avenge / reward / retribution

gào - announce / proclaim / declare / inform / notify / report to / tell / to say / accuse / prosecute / to
sue / complain about / tell on / ask for / request / solicit / advise / counsel / admonish

昼夜/晝

July 26, 2011

Japanese Romaji: chuuya

Japanese Meaning: day and night

Parts:

chuu(hiru) - daytime / noon / midday / lunch

ya(yo, yoru) - evening / night

*Note 1: in Japanese, 十六夜 (16th night of the month) is read as “izayoi” and 昨夜 (last night) has the uncommon reading of “yuube”

Chinese Pinyin: zhòuyè

Chinese Meaning: day and night / period of 24 hours / continuously / without stop / round the clock

Parts:

zhòu - daytime / daylight / day

yè - night / dark / darkness / in night / by night / night trip / night travelling

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 3: a variant of the second character is 徂

漢字/漢

July 27, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kanji

Japanese Meaning: Chinese characters / kanji / hanzi

Parts:

kan(kara, otoko) - China / Sino- / Han (majority Chinese ethnic group) / man / (kara)(archaism) China (sometimes also used in reference to Korea or other foreign countries) / (otoko) honourable man (anime, manga usage), honorable man

ji(aza, azana, na) - character (i.e. kanji) / letter / word / handwriting / penmanship / the ... word / section of a village / Chinese courtesy name (name formerly given to adult Chinese men, used in place of their given name in formal situations) / nickname

*Note 1: the Japanese says "This is the 100th character!"

Chinese Pinyin: hànzi

Chinese Meaning: Chinese characters / kanji / hanzi

Parts:

hàn - the Chinese people / Chinese language / adult man / guy / fellow / Han ethnic group / Han nationality / the Han dynasty (206 BC-220 AD) / the river Han

zì - character (i.e. hanzi) / letter / word / symbol / logograph / glyph / style of handwriting / printing type / courtesy or style name traditionally given to males aged 20 in dynastic China / betroth a girl / Chinese character with more than one component / (Cantonese) five minutes (on the clock)

*Note 2: the Chinese says "The 100th character!"

性格

July 28, 2011

Japanese Romaji: seikaku

Japanese Meaning: character / personality / disposition / nature / temperament

Parts:

sei(saga, shou) - nature (of a person or thing) / character / characteristic / gender / sex / (suffix) -ty / -ity / -ness / -cy / content / one's destiny / custom / tradition / habit / (Buddhism) that which does not change according to external influences

kaku(kyaku, kou) - capacity / character / rank / status / case (law, grammar)

Chinese Pinyin: xìnggé

Chinese Meaning: character / personality / disposition / nature / temperament

Parts:

xìng - nature / character / disposition / temper / quality or property / natural property / attribute / gender / sex / sexuality / essence / suffix forming adjective from verb / suffix forming noun from adjective, corresponding to -ness or -ity

gé - square / frame / shelf / check / division / pattern / standard / form / quality / style / character / nature / rule / case (law, grammar) / (classical) to obstruct / to hinder / impede / combat / hit / beat / (classical) to arrive / to come / (classical) to investigate / examine / to study exhaustively / research

特別

July 29, 2011

Japanese Romaji: tokubetsu

Japanese Meaning: special / particular

Parts:

toku - special

betsu (waka, wa) - another / branch off / diverge / extra / fork / separate / difference / different / distinction / specially / particular / exception / not particularly / not specially (used with a negative verb)

Chinese Pinyin: tèbié

Chinese Meaning: special / especially / particular / unusual

Parts:

tè - special / unique / distinguished / peculiar / particular / especially / unusual / outstanding / extraordinary / exclusive / only / just / merely / very / bull / ox

bié - differentiate / distinguish / difference / distinction / classification / category / group / separate from / part from / to leave / take leave / depart / other / another / alternative / unique / unusual / special / do not / had better not / must not / stop / to pin

*Note 1: this word is less formal than 特殊 (tokushu / tèshū)

*Note 2: the second character has the same simplified Chinese form as 警

緑色/緑

July 30, 2011

Japanese Romaji: midori'iro

Japanese Meaning: green (color) / emerald green / green color of new foliage / verdure

Parts:

midori(ryoku) - green (color) / greenery / verdure / a new bud or shoot

iro(shiki, shoku) - color / colour / tint / tinge / hue / shade / facial expression / complexion / appearance / look / sensuality / love / lust / love affair / lover / kind / sort / type / variety / (Buddhism) rupa (form) / visible objects (i.e. color and form) / counter for colors

Chinese Pinyin: lǜsè

Chinese Meaning: green (color)

Parts:

lǜ - green (color) / chlorine

sè(shǎi) - color / colour / tint / tinge / hue / shade / facial expression / complexion / appearance / look / beauty / desire for beauty / sensuality / lust / lewdness / sex / carnal pleasure / kind / sort / type / variety / form / body / dice / worldly things

本日

July 31, 2011

Japanese Romaji: honjitsu

Japanese Meaning: (formal) today / this day

Parts:

hon(bon, pon, moto) - root / origin / source / base / basis / foundation / cause / ingredient / material / original cost (or capital, principal, etc.) / (plant) root / (tree) trunk / first section of a waka / handle (chopsticks, brush, etc.) / a grip / book / volume / script / scenario / main / the head of / this / our / the present / real / current / counter for long cylindrical things (glasses of drinks, pairs of jeans, etc.) / counter for films, TV shows, etc. / counter for goals, home runs, etc. / counter for blades of grass, tree trunks, etc., and for falcons (in falconry)

jitsu(ka, hi, bi, nichi, ni) - sun / sunshine / sunlight / day / days / daytime / case (especially unfortunate) / event / day of month / Sunday / Japan / Japanese / counter for days

*Note 1: the second character also has other special readings in common Japanese phrases: 今日

(kyou - today) / 明日 (ashita/asu - tomorrow) / 昨日 (kinou - yesterday) / 一昨日 (ototoi/issakujitsu

- the day before yesterday) / 一昨々日 (sakitotoi/issakusakujitsu - three days back)

Chinese Pinyin: běnrì

Chinese Meaning: today

Parts:

běn - root / origin / source / this / basis / foundation / based on / according to / on the authority of / originally / at first / original / inherent / intrinsic / current / present / this / my / our / copy / book / edition / script / capital / principal / cost / roots or stems of plants / counter for books, periodicals, files, etc.

rì - sun / day / date / day of the month / daytime / daily / everyday / time / Japan / Japanese / counter for days

*Note 2: Reversing the characters gives “Nihon/Nippon”, which is Japanese for “Japan”, and “Rìběn”, which is Chinese for “Japan”.

*Note 3: two variants of the first character are 本 and 𣎵 A variant of the second character is 𠂔

便利

August 1, 2011

Japanese Romaji: benri

Japanese Meaning: convenient / handy / useful

Parts:

ben(bin, tayo, yosuga) - opportunity / chance / flight (e.g. airline flight) / trip (e.g. train trip) / (bus) service / mail / post / letter / convenience / convenient / service / handy / facilities / accommodation / excreta (especially faeces) / stools / excrement / bowel movement / something to rely on / aid / clue / way / means / someone to rely on / relative / reminder / memento
ri(ki) - advantage / benefit / profit / gains / interest

Chinese Pinyin: biànlì

Chinese Meaning: convenient / handy / easy / to facilitate

Parts:

biàn(pián) - ordinary / plain / convenience / convenient / as convenient / when the chance arises / handy / easy / ease / expedient / informal / simple / news / equivalent to 就 (then / in that case / even if / soon afterwards) / even if / even though / so / thus / proper / appropriate / suitable / to relieve oneself / to urinate / to defecate / excreta / stools / excrement or urine / unmerited advantages / cheap / advantageous / glib-tongued / sleek / bulging / swelling
lì - sharp / favorable / advantage / benefit / profit / gains / interest / to benefit / merit / serve / to do good to

馬鹿

August 2, 2011

Japanese Romaji: baka

Japanese Meaning: fool / idiot / unintelligent / trivial matter / folly / absurdity / absurd / foolish / stupid / dull / ridiculous / useless / futile

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 傻瓜 (shǎguā)

Parts:

ba(uma, ma) - horse / promoted bishop (shogi) / a sawhorse

ka(shika, jika, roku) - deer

Chinese Pinyin: mǎlù

Chinese Meaning: red deer / fool / idiot / the Japanese 'baka'

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 赤鹿 (akashika) / 馬鹿 (baka)

Parts:

mǎ - horse / horse or cavalry piece in Chinese chess / knight in Western chess / (abbreviation) Malaysia

lù - deer / stag / doe

選択/擇

August 3, 2011

Japanese Romaji: sentaku

Japanese Meaning: selection / pick / choice / option

Parts:

sen(e, yo, era) – choose / pick / select / choice / elect / prefer

taku(e, yo) - choose / pick / select / choice / elect / prefer

Chinese Pinyin: xuǎnzé

Chinese Meaning: selection / pick / choice / option

Parts:

xuǎn - choose / pick / select / choice / elect / prefer / election

zé - choose / pick / select / choice / elect / prefer / determine

機械

August 4, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kikai

Japanese Meaning: machine / mechanism / instrument / appliance / apparatus

Parts:

ki(hata) - machine / mechanism / airplane / aircraft / occasion / moment / opportunity / chance

kai(kase) - implement / appliance / tool / instrument / shackles / fetter

Chinese Pinyin: jīxiè

Chinese Meaning: machine / machinery / mechanical

Parts:

jī - machine / mechanism / airplane / aircraft / occasion / moment / opportunity / chance / cell phone

xiè - weapons / implement / appliance / tool / instrument / shackles / fetter

現在

August 5, 2011

Japanese Romaji: genzai

Japanese Meaning: now / current / at present / at the moment

Parts:

gen(arawa, utsutsu, utsu) - appear / manifest / become visible / emerge / reveal / actual / existing / now / current / the present / reality / consciousness

zai(a) - exist / be / (located) at / (located) in / (located) on / outskirts / suburbs / countryside / country / situated in / resident in

Chinese Pinyin: xiànzài

Chinese Meaning: now / current / currently / at present / the present time / at the moment / modern / nowadays

Parts:

xiàn - appear / manifest / become visible / emerge / reveal / existing / now / current / the present / modern / in time of need / extempore / cash / ready / available / actual

zài - exist / be alive / be present / living / be at / (to be) in / (located) at / (located) in / (located) on / up to / during / consist in / rest with / depend on / to indicate a progressive tense (an action in progress) / in the middle of doing something

*Note: the first character is a variant of 見 (which is also a completely separate character). A variant of the second character is 在

天氣/氣

August 6, 2011

Japanese Romaji: tenki

Japanese Meaning: weather / the elements / fair weather / fine weather

Parts:

ten(ama, ame) - heaven / sky

ki(gi, ke, ge) - gas / steam / vapor / air / atmosphere / essence / spirit / mind / heart / nature /
disposition / temperament / motivation / intention / mood / feelings / -like nature / -like disposition /
-ish temperament / sign / indication / trace / touch / somehow / for some reason / seeming to be /
giving the appearance of / giving one the feeling of

Chinese Pinyin: tiānqì

Chinese Meaning: weather

Parts:

tiān - day / heaven / sky / celestial / god / godly / top of one's head / nature / natural

qì - gas / steam / vapor / vapour / air / weather / breath / to anger / to get angry / to be enraged /
irritation / annoyance / annoy / smell / odour / odor / spirit / aura / morale / manners / airs / bullying /
insult / qi (vital energy) / chi

*Note: 2 variants of the first character are 天 and 𠀤 Another variant of the second character is 炁

怪我

August 7, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kega

Japanese Meaning: injury / hurt

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 受傷 (shòushāng)

Parts:

ke(aya, kai) – apparition / mystery / wonder / suspicious

ga(ware, wa, waga) - I / me / my / oneself / we / our / us / selfish / ego

Chinese Pinyin: guàiwǒ

Chinese Meaning: blame me

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 私を責める (watashi o semeru)

Parts:

guài - odd / strange / unusual / peculiar / queer / uncanny / devil / monster / monstrous / to wonder at / to blame

wǒ - I / me / my / oneself / we / our / us

帽子

August 8, 2011

Japanese Romaji: boushi

Japanese Meaning: hat / cap

Parts:

bou(bo) - hat / cap / headgear

shi(ko, go, ne, ji, su, zu, mi) - child / young (animal) / young woman / young geisha / offshoot / interest / new shares / offspring / fruit / nut / seed / an object which has a subservient or derivative role relative to another object / (suffix) (after a noun or -masu stem) -er (often of young women) / smaller or younger version of a bigger object / (in broth) pieces of meat, vegetables, etc. / content / substance / viscount / (honorific) master (founder of a school of thought, esp. Confucius) / philosophy (branch of Chinese literature) / non-Confucian Hundred Schools of Thought writings / first sign of the Chinese zodiac / sign of the rat (zodiac)

*Note 1: in Japanese, “glass” can be written as ガラス or 硝子 (read as “garasu”). Also, 餃子 (gyoza “dumplings”) is read as “gyouza”.

Chinese Pinyin: màozi

Chinese Meaning: hat / cap / (figurative) label / bad name

Parts:

mào - hat / cap / headgear / cap-like cover for something

zi(zǐ) - son / daughter / child / young (animal) / offspring / newborn / tender / small / sub- / subsidiary / subordinate / being / person / learned or virtuous man / master / fruit / nut / seed / egg / small thing / viscount / master / a designation used in speaking of or to a man in former times / (noun suffix) / a suffix for small objects / first sign of the Chinese zodiac / sign of the rat (zodiac)

*Note 2: two variants of the first character are 帽 and 冃

教室

August 9, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kyoushitsu

Japanese Meaning: classroom

Parts:

kyou(oshi, oso) - teach / instruct / educate / faith / doctrine / religion / teaching

shitsu(muro) - room / chamber / apartment / cellar / greenhouse / icehouse / drying room / Chinese

"Encampment" constellation (one of the 28 mansions)

*Note 1: the Japanese on the blackboard says 遊びましょう (asobimashou), which means "Let's play!"

Chinese Pinyin: jiàoshì

Chinese Meaning: classroom

Parts:

jiào(jiāo) - to teach / instruct / educate / class / to tell / faith / doctrine / religion / religious teachings / instruction / to make / to cause / to permit

shì - room / home / house / chamber / apartment / apartment number / flat number / work unit / grave / scabbard / family or clan / Chinese "Encampment" constellation (one of the 28 mansions)

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 教

点火/點

August 10, 2011

Japanese Romaji: tenka

Japanese Meaning: lighting / to light a fire / set fire to / to ignite / ignition

Parts:

ten(sa, ta, tsu, tobo, tomo, botsu, bochi) - spot / dot / speck / decimal point / mark (exam) / score / point(s) / grade / counter for goods or items / to light (a fire) / to ignite / to kindle

ka(hi, bi, ho) - fire / flame / blaze / (abbreviation) Tuesday

*Note 1: in Japanese, 火傷 (to burn, to scald) is read as "yakedo".

Chinese Pinyin: diǎnhuǒ

Chinese Meaning: lighting / to light a fire / to ignite / ignition / to agitate / to start an engine / idiom: to stir up trouble, to incite a fight

Parts:

diǎn - drop (of liquid) / stain / spot / dot / speck / decimal point / mark (exam) / score / point(s) / degree / to draw a dot / to check on a list / to choose / to order (food in a restaurant) / a place (with certain characteristics) / snacks / refreshments / o'clock / hours / a little / a bit / small amount / some / instruct / to teach / to touch on briefly / to hint / to make clear / to check / examine / investigate / review / select / pick out / to light (a fire) / to ignite / light up / to kindle / to pour a liquid drop by drop / nod (the head) / to touch / to point at / counter for small indeterminate quantities / counter for items / dot stroke in Chinese characters / (Cantonese) how?

huǒ - fire / flame / blaze / fiery / flaming / burn with fire / anger / rage / temper / urgency / urgent / pressing / imminent / ammunition / internal heat (Chinese medicine) / the latent heat in a human body (Chinese medicine) / hot (popular) / a group (people) / (archaism) counter for military units

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 3: a variant of the first character is 𤇀 A variant of the second character is 伙

風景

August 11, 2011

Japanese Romaji: fuukei

Japanese Meaning: scenery / landscape / view

Parts:

fuu(kaza, kaze, fu, bu, puu) - wind / air / gust / breeze / gale / a movement of air / manner / style / method / a way / appearance / an air / tendency / folk song (genre of the Shi Jing)

kei(ke) - scenery / scene / scenic view / view / vista / landscape / counter for scenes (in a play)

*Note 1: in Japanese, 風邪 (a cold) is read as “kaze”

Chinese Pinyin: fēngjǐng

Chinese Meaning: scenery / landscape

Parts:

fēng - wind / air / gust / breeze / gale / customs / practices / tendency / manners / atmosphere / style / bearing / attitude / taste / fame / reputation / news / information / rumor / rumour / scenery / view / landscape / sickness (caused by wind and dampness) / certain disease supposedly caused by wind

jǐng - scenery / view / landscape / sight / setting / scene or scenery of a play / condition / situation / circumstance / bright / admire / revere / esteem

*Note 2: 3 variants of the first character are 風 飊 丰

海鮮/海

August 12, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kaisen

Japanese Meaning: seafood

Parts:

kai(umi) - ocean / sea / beach / maritime

sen(aza) - fresh / brilliant / clear / vivid / Korea

*Note 1: 海苔 (edible seaweed) is read as “nori”; 海胆 (sea urchin) is read as “uni”; 海老 (prawn, shrimp, or lobster”, etc.) is read as “ebi”; 海豹 (seal [animal]) is read as “azarashi”; 海豚 (dolphin) is read as “iruka”; 海獺/海獺 (sea otter) is read as “rakko”

Chinese Pinyin: hǎixiān

Chinese Meaning: seafood

Parts:

hǎi - ocean / sea / maritime / a huge gathering (of people, etc.) / great number of people or things coming together / area / field / great / unlimited

xiān(xiǎn) - fresh / new / delicious / tasty / delicacy / aquatic foods / bright (in color) / attractive / seldom / rare / few

*Note 2: 3 variants of the second character are 鮮 鮮 鮮

果樹

August 13, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kaju

Japanese Meaning: fruit tree

Parts:

ka(ha, hata, kuda) - fruit / counter for pieces of fruit / achieve / carry out / complete / end / result / finish / reward / succeed / (Buddhism) phala (attained state, result) / (Buddhism) enlightenment (as the fruits of one's Buddhist practice)

ju(ki, ko) - tree / wood / timber / plant

Chinese Pinyin: guǒshù

Chinese Meaning: fruit tree

Parts:

guǒ - fruit of a plant / effect (in cause and effect) / result / fruit / consequence / indeed / really / truly / surely / exactly / if really / indeed / to stuff / to fill / succeed / resolute

shù - tree / to plant / cultivate / set up / establish / to erect / door screen

*Note: a variant of the first character is 菓, which is a separate character in Japanese

小猫/貓

August 14, 2011

Japanese Romaji: koneko

Japanese Meaning: kitten

Parts:

ko(o, sa, chii, bo, shou) - little / small / slight / tiny / short / light / young / infant / smallness / small item / narrow / slightly / a bit / slightly less than / just about / somewhat / somehow / minor (sometimes derogatory) / petty / of secondary importance / secondary / sub- / familiar prefix / short month (i.e. having fewer than 31 days) / (abbreviation) elementary school / younger or inferior (of two items or people with the same name) / (archaism) unit of field area (approx. 400 sq. m)

neko(byou, myou) - cat / shamisen / geisha / (abbreviation) wheelbarrow / (abbreviation) clay bed-warmer

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word can also be written as 子猫 (most common) or 仔猫

Chinese Pinyin: xiǎomāo

Chinese Meaning: kitten

Parts:

xiǎo - little / small / tiny / few / young / junior / minor / humble / mean / lowly / insignificant / trivial / unimportant / light / petty

māo - cat

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

羽毛

August 15, 2011

Japanese Romaji: umou

Japanese Meaning: feathers / plumage / down

Parts:

u(ha, hane, ba, pa, wa) - feather / plume / wing / blade (fan, propeller, etc.) / fifth degree (of the Japanese & Chinese pentatonic scale) / counter for birds and rabbits

mou(ke, ge) - fur / hair (not on human head) / feather / down / one-thousandth / 0.03 mm

(one-thousandth of a sun) / 0.01 percent (one-thousandth of a wari) / 3.75 milligrams (one-thousandth of a monme) / old monetary unit (0.0001 yen)

*Note: In Japan, the supposed reason why 羽 is used as a counter for rabbits as well as birds is because Buddhist monks were not allowed to eat meat from 4-legged animals, but found rabbit meat to be delicious, so they classified them as birds (which are 2-legged). Their explanation was that rabbit ears were unusable wings and they only touch the ground with two feet while moving. Also, the word for "rabbit" (usagi) is a pun on the words for "cormorant" (u) and "heron" (sagi), two types of birds.

Chinese Pinyin: yǔmáo

Chinese Meaning: feathers / plumage / down / plume

Parts:

yǔ - feather / plume / wing / 5th note in pentatonic scale

máo - fur / hair (not on human head) / feather / down / wool / mildew / mold / coarse or unfinished / semi-finished / unpolished / gross / untouched / very young / little / raw / vegetation / careless / unthinking / nervous / scared / panic-stricken / flurried / one-thousandth / (of currency) to devalue or depreciate / ten cents / dime / counter for Chinese fractional monetary unit (= 角 , = 1; 10 yuan or 10 fen 分)

長髮/髮

August 16, 2011

Japanese Romaji: chouhatsu

Japanese Meaning: long hair

Parts:

chou(osa, naga, tsukasa) - long / leader / chief / head (of an organization) / elder / merit / strong point / superiority / the greatest of all / the most excellent / major (music) / (archaism) office / official

hatsu(patsu, kami, gami) - hair (of the human head)

*Note 1: 長閑 (tranquil / calm / quiet / peaceful) is read as “nodoka”.

Chinese Pinyin: chángfà

Chinese Meaning: long hair

Parts:

cháng(zhǎng) - long / length / forever / always / constantly / excel in / be good at / forte / strong point / leader / chief / head (of an organization) / elder / master / older / senior / a superior / to grow / to develop / to increase / to enhance

fà(fǎ) - hair (of the human head) / hairbreadth

*Note 2: 2 variants of the first character are 𠂔 and 𠂔

黄金/黄

August 17, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kogane / ougon

Japanese Meaning: gold / golden

Parts:

ko(ou, ki, kou) - yellow

gane(kana, kane, kin, kon, gon) - gold / golden (color) / money / metal / metaphor for (most) valuable / gold (medal, cup, etc.) / Friday / karat / carat / (colloquialism) testicles

*Note 1: in Japanese, 黄昏 (dusk, twilight) has a reading of “tasogare”. 黄昏れる (to fade into dusk, to decline, to wane) has the reading of “tasogareru”.

Chinese Pinyin: huángjīn

Chinese Meaning: gold / golden

Parts:

huáng - yellow / to fall through

jīn - gold / golden / money / wealth / metal / generic term for lustrous and ductile metals / highly respected / weapons / arms / precious / excellent / fine / durable

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

旅行

August 18, 2011

Japanese Romaji: ryokou

Japanese Meaning: travel / trip / journey / tour / voyage

Parts:

ryo(tabi) - travel / trip / journey / 500-man battalion (Zhou-dynasty Chinese army)

kou(i, okona, yu, yuki, an, gou, gyou) - go / going / journey / travelling / traveling / line of text / row / verse / (math) row of a matrix / type of classical Chinese verse (usually an epic) / bank / (archaism)

district (of similar merchants) / guild / (Buddhism) carya (austerities) / (Buddhism) samskara (formations) / (abbreviation) running script (a semi-cursive style of kanji)

*Note 1: in Japanese, 流行る (to spread; to become popular, etc.) is read as “hayaru”.

Chinese Pinyin: lǚxíng

Chinese Meaning: travel / trip / journey / tour

Parts:

lǚ - travel / trip / journey / lodge / traveller / traveler / passenger / lodger / multitude / people / disciples / pupils / followers / subordinates / order / sequence / arrange / brigade / troops (military) / sacrifice to the mountains / proceed together / do things together

xíng(háng, xìng) - go / walk / move / travel / a visit / temporary / makeshift / be current / in circulation / circulate / prevail / to do / to perform / to act / practise / capable / able / competent / effective / be all right / be allowed / OK! / will do / (counter) a row / series / a line of / an ancient form of narrative poem which is usually longer than the usual four or eight lines / age order (of brothers) / rank (of seniority among siblings) / profession / professional / trade / line of business / relating to company / shop / a firm / company / behaviour / conduct / deed / (Cantonese) set up (bed space) / (Cantonese) hope / expectation

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 依

大刀

August 19, 2011

Japanese Romaji: daitou

Japanese Meaning: long sword / katana

Parts:

dai(oo, ta, tai) - big / large / huge / great / loud (volume) / senior / the large part of / (suffix)

approximate size / no larger than / (abbreviation) -university

tou(chi, katana, sori) - knife / single-edged sword (katana) / knife-shaped thing (saber / cutlass / sword/ dagger / scalpel / etc.) / a kind of bronze or copper money in ancient China, shaped a bit like a sword

*Note 1: In Japanese, 大人 (adult) is read as “otona”; 大蛇 (big snake) has the reading of “oroichi”; 大和 (an old name for Japan) is read as “Yamato”

Chinese Pinyin: dàdāo

Chinese Meaning: broadsword / large knife (machete / glaive / bolo / etc.) / any kind of weapon which has a single edged curved blade

Parts:

dà(dài) - big / large / huge / major / vast / wide / deep / great / high / very / highly / extremely / really / much / oldest / eldest / senior / adult / full-grown / your (politely) / before / after (referring to dates only) / make large / make great

dāo - knife / blade / single-edged sword / knife-shaped thing (saber / cutlass / sword/ etc.) / a type of ancient coin / measure / counter for sets of 100 sheets of paper

*Note 2: 2 variants of the second character are 刀 and 刃

花瓶

August 20, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kabin

Japanese Meaning: flower vase

Parts:

ka(hana, bana, ge, ke, kya) - flower / blossom / bloom / petal / blooming (especially of cherry blossoms) / cherry blossom / ikebana / flower arrangement / (abbreviation) Japanese playing cards / beauty / (the) best (thing, days of one's life, etc.) / essence

bin(kame) - flower pot / vase / bottle / jar / flask / jug / pitcher / urn / vat / vial / earthenware pot / bottle, jug, or jar made from glass, pottery, or ceramic

Chinese Pinyin: huāpíng

Chinese Meaning: flower vase / (figurative) just a pretty face / fake / superficial

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 表在 (hyouzai) for "superficial"

Parts:

huā - flower / blossom / a flowering plant / fancy pattern / florid / varicolored / fireworks / to spend (money, time, etc.) / expend / prostitute / prostitution / used in smallpox

píng - vase / bottle / jar / flask / jug / pitcher / the quantity contained in a bottle, etc. / counter for quantity of liquids / counter for wine and liquids

*Note: 4 variants of the first character are 化華苓蘼 The first two of these are also separate characters.
2 variants of the second character are 瓶 and 餅

温度/溫

August 21, 2011

Japanese Romaji: ondo

Japanese Meaning: temperature

Parts:

on(atata, nuku, nuru) - warm / lukewarm / tepid / mild

do(tabi, taku, to) - degree (angle, temperature, scale, etc.) / occurrence / times / strength (of alcohol) / counter for occurrences and times

Chinese Pinyin: wēndù

Chinese Meaning: temperature

Parts:

wēn - warm / lukewarm / temperature / to warm up / tepid / mild / soft / tender / gentle and kind / to review / to revise / epidemic

dù(duó) - degree (angle, intensity, temperature, etc.) / occurrence / times / limit / extent / system / manner / bearing / to estimate / measure / limit / to pass / to spend time / consider / kilowatt-hour / counter for occurrences and events

*Note: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

砂糖

August 22, 2011

Japanese Romaji: satou

Japanese Meaning: sugar

Parts:

sa(suna, sha, isago, isa) - sand / grit

tou - sugar

Chinese Pinyin: shātáng

Chinese Meaning: sugar

Parts:

shā - sand / pebbles / gravel / grit / granule

táng - sugar / candy / sweets

計算

August 23, 2011

Japanese Romaji: keisan

Japanese Meaning: calculation / count / compute / forecast

Parts:

kei(haka) - measure / plan / plot / scheme / calculate

san(soro) - calculate / compute / abacus / number / divining

Chinese Pinyin: jìsuàn

Chinese Meaning: calculation / count / compute

Parts:

jì - plan / plot / scheme / calculate / compute / count / regard as important / meter / gauge / mechanical measuring device

suàn - calculate / compute / count / figure / plan / scheme / count / regard as important / matter

鼻水

August 24, 2011

Japanese Romaji: hanamizu

Japanese Meaning: nasal mucus / snivel / runny nose / dripping nose / snot

Parts:

hana(bana, bi) - nose / snout

mizu(sui, zui) - water (especially cool, fresh water, e.g. drinking water) / liquid / fluid (especially in an animal tissue) / flood / floodwaters / water offered to sumo wrestlers just prior to a bout / break granted to sumo wrestlers engaged in a prolonged bout / (abbreviation) Wednesday / shaved ice (served with flavored syrup)

Chinese Pinyin: bíshuǐ

Chinese Meaning: nasal mucus / snivel / runny nose / snot

Parts:

bí - nose / snout / first / before any others

shuǐ - water / liquid / river / juice / beverage / lotion / flood / flood disaster / a general term for seas / additional charges or income / (slang) money / counter for number of washes of clothes

*Note: a variant of the second character is 水

体育/體

August 25, 2011

Japanese Romaji: tai'iku

Japanese Meaning: athletics / sports / physical education / gymnastics / physical exercise

Parts:

tai(katachi, karada, tei) - body / health / physique / posture / shape / form / style / object / reality / substance / identity / appearance / air / condition / state / (mathematical) field / counter for humanoid forms (statues, dolls, etc.) / counter for images

iku(soda, haguku) - bring up / grow up / raise (a child, etc.) / rear (a child, etc.)

Chinese Pinyin: tǐyù

Chinese Meaning: athletics / sports / physical education

Parts:

tǐ - body / shape / form / style / system / fashion / group / class / entity / unit / substance / essence / theory (as opposed to practice)

yù - produce / give birth to / breed / educate / bring up / grow up / to have children / raise (a child, etc.) / rear (a child, etc.) / nourish / to nurse

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: 3 other variants of the first character are 軀 軀體 軀 A variant of the second character is 毓

紙箱

August 26, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kamibako

Japanese Meaning: paper box / paper carton / cardboard box

Parts:

kami(gami, shi) - paper

bako(hako) - box / bin / case / chest / trunk / package / pack / car (of a train, etc.) / shamisen case /

shamisen / (Colloquialism) public building, community building / (archaism) man who carries a geisha's

shamisen / (archaism) receptacle for human waste, feces (faeces) / counter for boxes (or boxed objects)

Chinese Pinyin: zhǐxiāng

Chinese Meaning: paper box / paper carton / cardboard box

Parts:

zhǐ - paper / counter for documents, letters, etc.

xiāng - box / bin / case / chest / trunk / anything in the shape of a box

石油

August 27, 2011

Japanese Romaji: sekiyu

Japanese Meaning: oil / petroleum / kerosene

Parts:

seki(ishi, koku, shaku) - stone / rock / gem / jewel / measure of volume (approx. 180.39 liters, 6.37 cub. ft.) / measure of a Japanese-style boat's loading capacity (approx. 278.26 liters)

yu(abura) - oil / fat

Chinese Pinyin: shíyóu

Chinese Meaning: oil / petroleum

Parts:

shí(dàn) - stone / rock / mineral / gem / jewel / stone tablets / medicines / calculus (as a kidney calculus, kidney stone) / stone inscription / barren (as a barren woman) / one of the eight ancient musical instruments 八音 / dry measure for grain equal to ten dou 斗 / ten pecks / one hundred liters

yóu - oil / fat / grease / lard / paints / varnish / lacquer / petroleum / oily / greasy / slippery / to apply
tung oil, paint, or varnish / cunning / glib / sly

*Note: a variant of the first character is 𣎵

自己

August 28, 2011

Japanese Romaji: jiko

Japanese Meaning: self / oneself

Parts:

ji(ono, mizuka, shi) - oneself / self / self- (prefix) / from...

ko(tsuchinoto, onore, na, ki) - self / (archaism) I / (archaism) oneself (itself, etc.) / (humble) I (or me) / (derogatory) you / by oneself (itself, etc.) / interjection expressing anger or chagrin / serpent / snake / sixth sign of the Chinese calendar / sixth in rank

Chinese Pinyin: zìjǐ

Chinese Meaning: self / oneself / one's own

Parts:

zì - oneself / self / personal / private / from / since / natural / naturally

jǐ - oneself / self / one's own / personal / private / sixth in order / hexa / sixth sign of the Chinese calendar

竜巻/龍巻

August 29, 2011

Japanese Romaji: tatsumaki

Japanese Meaning: tornado / twister / waterspout

Parts:

tatsu(ryuu, ryou) - dragon / imperial

maki(ma, kan, ken) - coil / roll / roll up / wind up / tie / scroll / book / part / volume / counter for texts (or book scrolls)

*Note 1: I've seen both characters for "dragon" used equally frequently in Japanese.

Chinese Pinyin: lóngjuǎn(fēng)

Chinese Meaning: tornado / twister / waterspout

Parts:

lóng - dragon / imperial

juǎn(juàn) - roll / roll up / reel / spool / scroll / book / part / chapter / volume / counter for small rolled things / counter for books, paintings

*Note 2: The correct terminology in Chinese has the character for "wind" (August 11, 2011) as a third character.

*Note 3: The Chinese character for "roll" also happens to be the simplified form of 捲, which is a completely different character meaning the action of rolling something. I found both characters used interchangeably in today's word.

人造

August 30, 2011

Japanese Romaji: jinzou

Japanese Meaning: synthetic / artificial / man-made

Parts:

jin(to, hito, bito, ri, nin) - person / people / mankind / man / human being / human / someone else / character / personality / man of talent / true man / other people / adult / -ian (e.g. Italian, etc.) (attaches to name of country to denote nationality) / -er (e.g. performer, etc.) (attaches to name of occupation) / (person who does the activity of the suffixed word) / counter for people
zou(tsuku, dzuku) - create / make / structure / physique

*Note 1: in Japanese, 大人 (adult) is read as “otona”; 仲人 (matchmaker) is read as “nakoudo”

Chinese Pinyin: rénzào

Chinese Meaning: synthetic / artificial / man-made

Parts:

rén - person / people / man / mankind / human / human being / humanity / someone else / everybody / each / all / grown-up / adult / manhood / persons of a certain kind / a person's character, reputation, etc. / a person's physical or mental condition / manpower / staff / human resources
zào - create / to make / to build / construct / invent / manufacture / prepare / begin / crop / harvest / achievement / attainment / accomplishment / go to / arrive at / visit

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 艘

山路

August 31, 2011

Japanese Romaji: yamaji / sanro

Japanese Meaning: mountain path / mountain road

Parts:

yama(san, zan, sen) - mountain / hill / mine (e.g. coal mine) / heap / pile / crown (of a hat) / thread (of a screw) / tread (of a tire) / climax / peak / critical point / guess / speculation / criminal case / crime / festival float (especially one mounted with a decorative halberd) / (prefix) wild / Mt. (suffix used with the names of mountains) / Mount

ji(chi, michi, ro) - path / road / street / way / course / route / lane / distance / ways (e.g. a long ways) / the way (of proper conduct, etc.) / one's ways / morals / teachings (especially Confucian or Buddhist) / dogma / field (of medicine, etc.) / subject / method / means / distance travelled in a day / (with decade) one's... / age...

Chinese Pinyin: shānlù

Chinese Meaning: mountain path / mountain road / hill path

Parts:

shān - mountain / hill / peak / anything that resembles a mountain / bundled straw in which silkworms spin cocoons / gable

lù(luò) - path / road / way / distance / route / street / directions / journey / means / course / line (bus, etc.) / a sort / a kind / type / a grade / class / sequence / line / logic

紅葉

September 1, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kouyou / momiji

Japanese Meaning: autumn colours / fall colors / leaves changing color (colour) / leaves turning red / red leaves / colored autumn leaves / Japanese maple (momiji)

Parts:

kou(aka, kurenai, beni, momi, ku, gu) - deep red / crimson / scarlet / rouge / lipstick / lip liner / red-containing colour (e.g. brown, pink, orange) / (colloquialism) Red (i.e. communist) / (abbreviation) red light / (abbreviation) red ink (i.e. in finance or proof-reading) / (in) the red / complete / total / perfect / obvious / red silk lining

you(ha, ba, ji) - leaf / blade / fragment / lobe / needle / piece / plane / spear / counter for flat things (leaves, pieces of paper, etc.) / (archaism) counter for boats

Chinese Pinyin: hóngyè

Chinese Meaning: red autumnal leaves

Parts:

hóng - red / crimson / vermilion / rosy / blush / flush / redden / eminent / influential (players) / revolutionary / (very) popular / specially favored / favorite / bonus

yè - leaf / foliage / leaf-like thing / petal / lobe / page of book / (historical) period / era / epoch

*Note: the Japanese term refers more to the autumn season whereas the Chinese term is more literal (i.e. a red leaf)

美術

September 2, 2011

Japanese Romaji: bijutsu

Japanese Meaning: art / fine arts

Parts:

bi(utsuku, mi) - beauty / beautiful / lovely / pretty / august (adjective)

jutsu(sube) - method / technique / art / magic / trick / way / skill / means / resources

Chinese Pinyin: měishù

Chinese Meaning: art / fine arts / painting

Parts:

měi - beauty / beautiful / lovely / pretty / pleasing / to be pleased with oneself / fine / fair / very satisfactory / good / exquisite / nice / excellent / praise / delicious / USA / the Americas

shù(zhú) - method / technique / art / craft / tactics / way to do something / skill / special feat / various genera of flowers of Asteracea family (daisies and chrysanthemums), including Atractylis lancea

*Note: a variant of the second character is 朮

読書/讀

September 3, 2011

Japanese Romaji: dokusho

Japanese Meaning: reading / to read

Parts:

doku(yo, tou, toku) - read

sho(ka, ga, gaki) - write / document / book / penmanship / handwriting / calligraphy (especially Chinese)

Chinese Pinyin: dúshū

Chinese Meaning: to read a book / to study / to attend school

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 学習 (gakushuu) for the meaning of “study”

Parts:

dú(dòu) - read / pronounce / reading of word (i.e. pronunciation) / read aloud / study / attend school / comma / phrase marked by pause / slight pause in reading

shū - book / letter / writings / document / certificate / write / describe / style of calligraphy / script

英語

September 4, 2011

Japanese Romaji: eigo

Japanese Meaning: English (language)

Parts:

ei - England / English / UK / Britain / British

go(kata, gata) - language / speech / words / expressions / a term

Chinese Pinyin: yīngyǔ

Chinese Meaning: English (language)

Parts:

yīng - brave / petal / flower / leaf / surpassing / outstanding / prominent / distinguished / fine / handsome / hero / outstanding person / bright (person) / England / English / UK / British

yǔ(yù) - language / speech / dialect / words / expressions / saying / proverb / set phrase / sign / signal / speak / say / talk / tell

*Note 1: According to <http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php>, 英語熱(yīngyǔrè) means “English language fan” or “someone enthusiastic about English”

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 英

記者

September 5, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kisha

Japanese Meaning: reporter / journalist

Parts:

ki(shiru) - record / account / history / narrative / scribe / chronicle / annals / write down / note / memorize / remember / keep in mind / statement (often used as a heading in letters, notices and other documents) / inscription / mention / describe / mark

sha(mono, mon, ja) - person (rarely used without a qualifier) / (suffix) someone of that nature / someone doing that work / person involved in that / someone who does that / someone of that type

Chinese Pinyin: jìzhě

Chinese Meaning: reporter / journalist

Parts:

jì - record / account / history / chronicle / annals / register / mark / sign / write down / to note / memorize / remember / keep in mind / call to mind / bear in mind / a book recording persons, anecdotes, etc. / seals / chops

zhě - (after a verb or adjective) one who (is) ... / (suffix) someone of that nature / someone doing that work / person involved in that / that which / he or she who / those who / someone whose / (after a noun) person involved in ... / -er / -ist / (used after a number or 後 or 前 to refer to something mentioned previously) / (used after a term, to mark a pause before defining the term) / (a particle combining with some words to form adverbials) / (old) (used at the end of a command) / (old) this

*Note: a variant if the second character is 者

危険/險

September 6, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kiken

Japanese Meaning: danger / dangerous / peril / perilous / hazard / hazardous

Parts:

ki(abu, aya) - danger / dangerous / fear / uneasy

ken(kewa) - inaccessible place / impregnable position / steep place / precipitous / sharp eyes / harsh (look)

Chinese Pinyin: wēixiǎn

Chinese Meaning: danger / dangerous / peril / perilous / hazard / hazardous

Parts:

wēi - danger / dangerous / precarious / critical / endanger / imperil / jeopardize / high / precipitous / towering

xiǎn - danger / dangerous / obstructed / difficult / rugged / narrow pass / strategic pass / strategic point

無力

September 7, 2011

Japanese Romaji: muryoku

Japanese Meaning: powerless / powerlessness / lacking strength / helplessness / incompetence

Parts:

mu(na, bu) - not / none / no / nothing / nothingness / nil / naught / ain't / nought / zero / un- / non- / bad... / poor... / (Buddhism) The null set: neither yes nor no (in response to a koan or other question that mistakenly assumes an affirmative or negative answer)

ryoku(chikara, riki) - power / strength / energy / force / might / vigor / vigour / strong / strain / effort / endeavours / endeavors / exert / exertions / bear up / capability / ability / proficiency / capacity / faculty / efficacy / effect / authority / influence / good offices / agency / support / help / aid / assistance / stress / emphasis / means / resources

Chinese Pinyin: wúlì

Chinese Meaning: powerless / powerlessness / lacking strength / feel weak / unable / incapable

Parts:

wú - not / none / no / to lack / not to have / have no / have not / un- / non- / -less / negative / without / destitute of / wanting / no matter what (or how) / not yet

lì - power / strength / force / strong / vigor / ability / capability / influence / strain / exert / strenuously / earnestly / vigorously / do one's best

*Note: a variant of the first character is 無

食欲/慾

September 8, 2011

Japanese Romaji: shokuyoku

Japanese Meaning: appetite

Parts:

shoku(ku, ta, ha, jiki) - eat / meal / food

yoku(ho) - desire / longing / want / long for / greed / passion / craving / covetousness

Chinese Pinyin: shíyù

Chinese Meaning: appetite

Parts:

shí(sì) - eat / meal / food / swallow / appetite / livelihood / (a) living / animal feed / to feed

yù - desire / longing / want / long for / greed / passion / wish / lust / appetite

*Note: 欲 is also used in Chinese in two ways: (1) as the simplified version of the Chinese character above and (2) as a completely different word meaning the verbs “to wish for” or “to desire”.

米飯

September 9, 2011

Japanese Romaji: beihan

Japanese Meaning: (cooked) rice

Parts:

bei(kome, gome, yone, mai, meetoru) - (uncooked, husked grains of) rice / USA / America / American / meter (unit) / metre

han(meshi, manma) - cooked rice / boiled rice / meal / food / one's livelihood

Chinese Pinyin: mǐfàn

Chinese Meaning: (cooked) rice / boiled rice

Parts:

mǐ - (uncooked, husked grains of) rice / shelled or husked seed / grain-like things / meter (unit) / metre

fàn - cooked rice / cooked grain for food / meal / food / cuisine / feed / means for living / profession

*Note: a variant of the second character is 飯

飲酒

September 10, 2011

Japanese Romaji: inshu

Japanese Meaning: drinking alcohol (sake)

Parts:

in(no) - drink / take / smoke

shu(saka, sake, zake, ki) - alcoholic beverage / sake (Japanese rice wine) / alcohol

Chinese Pinyin: yǐnjiǔ

Chinese Meaning: drinking alcohol / to drink wine / to drink (an alcoholic beverage)

Parts:

yǐn - to drink / drinks / beverage / kind of drink / swallow / swallow tears / nurse (grievance) / be hit by / receive (a bullet, an arrow, etc.)

jiǔ - alcoholic beverage / alcoholic drinks (brewed or distilled) / wine (especially rice wine) / liquor / spirits

*Note: 2 variants of the first character are 飲 and 飲

半月

September 11, 2011

Japanese Romaji: hantsuki / hangetsu

Japanese Meaning: half-moon / half month / fortnight / semicircle

Parts:

han(ban, pan, naka) - half / middle / odd number / part- / semi- / half-past / (archaism) unit of land area (595.8 m²)

tsuki(dzuki, gatsu, getsu) - moon / month / (used to form names of months) / the lunar cycle / Monday

*Note: 夜半 (dead of night) is read as “yowa”

Chinese Pinyin: bànyuè

Chinese Meaning: half-moon / half month / fortnight

Parts:

bàn - half / middle / semi- / incomplete / partly / about half / (after a number) and a half / very little

yuè - moon / month / (used to form names of months)

寒冷

September 12, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kanrei

Japanese Meaning: cold (climate) / coldness / chilliness / frigid / freezing

Parts:

kan(samu) - cold / midwinter / cold season / coldest days of the year

rei(sa, tsume, hi) - chill / cold / cool

Chinese Pinyin: hánlěng

Chinese Meaning: cold (climate) / coldness / chilliness / frigid / freezing / very cold

Parts:

hán - cold / wintry / chilly / to tremble / poor / (poetry) shivering / vulnerable

lěng - cold / cool / chilly / unfrequented / deserted / desolate / lonely / rare / unusual / strange / sudden / unexpected / sneaky

犬齒/齒

September 13, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kenshi

Japanese Meaning: canine (tooth) / cuspid / eyetooth / dogtooth

Parts:

ken(inu) - dog (Canis (lupus) familiaris) / canine / one who is loyal (like a dog) / snoop (i.e. a detective, a spy, etc.) / (noun prefix) counterfeit, inferior, useless, wasteful

shi(ha, ba) - tooth / teeth / gears / cogs

Chinese Pinyin: quǎnchǐ

Chinese Meaning: canine (tooth) / cuspid / eyetooth / dogtooth

Parts:

quǎn - dog / canine

chǐ - tooth / teeth / gears / cogs / a tooth-like part of anything / age / speak of / mention

*Note: a variant of the first character is 𤝵

茶碗

September 14, 2011

Japanese Romaji: chawan

Japanese Meaning: teacup / rice bowl

Parts:

cha(sa) - tea / tea plant (Camellia sinensis) / tea preparation / making tea / (abbreviation) brown / (archaism) mockery

wan - porcelain bowl / bowl / teacup / cup

Chinese Pinyin: cháwǎn

Chinese Meaning: teacup

Parts:

chá - tea / tea plant (Camellia sinensis)

wǎn - porcelain bowl / bowl / teacup / cup / small dish

*Note: 5 variants of the second character are 碗 盃 碗 碗 盃

二百

September 15, 2011

Japanese Romaji: nihyaku

Japanese Meaning: two hundred / 200

Parts:

ni(futa, ji) - two / second / twice

hyaku(o, momo, byaku, pyaku) - hundred / numerous / many

Chinese Pinyin: èrbǎi

Chinese Meaning: two hundred / 200

Parts:

èr - two / second / twice

bǎi - hundred / numerous / many

東南

September 16, 2011

Japanese Romaji: tounan

Japanese Meaning: southeast / SE

Parts:

tou(higashi) - east

nan(minami) - south

*Note 1: In Japanese, the directions in between each cardinal direction (i.e. NW, NE, SW, SE) can be written using the appropriate kanji for North, East, South, or West in any order. For example, today's word can have the kanji reversed to read "nantou" and still mean SE. Also, when talking about a main cardinal direction (N, E, S, W), the pronunciation inside the brackets is used.

Chinese Pinyin: dōngnán

Chinese Meaning: southeast / SE

Parts:

dōng - east

nán - south

*Note 2: In Chinese, the directions in between each cardinal direction (i.e. NW, NE, SW, SE) can be written using the appropriate kanji for North, East, South, or West, but must start with the kanji for East or West. They do not have the same flexibility as the Japanese (but the kanji are always pronounced the same).

Source:

<http://skinner.hmdc.harvard.edu/ucdavis/techdocs/Cardinal.Directions.Chinese.Japanese.htm>

西北

September 17, 2011

Japanese Romaji: seihoku

Japanese Meaning: northwest / NW

Parts:

sei(nishi, sai, su) - west

hoku(boku, kita) - north

*Note 1: In Japanese, the directions in between each cardinal direction (i.e. NW, NE, SW, SE) can be written using the appropriate kanji for North, East, South, or West in any order. For example, today's word can have the kanji reversed to read "hokusei" and still mean NW. Also, when talking about a main cardinal direction (N, E, S, W), "nishi" and "kita" are used to mean "west" and "north" respectively.

Chinese Pinyin: xīběi

Chinese Meaning: northwest / NW

Parts:

xī - west

běi - north

*Note 2: In Chinese, the directions in between each cardinal direction (i.e. NW, NE, SW, SE) can be written using the appropriate kanji for North, East, South, or West, but must start with the kanji for East or West. They do not have the same flexibility as the Japanese (but the kanji are always pronounced the same).

Source:

<http://skinner.hmdc.harvard.edu/ucdavis/techdocs/Cardinal.Directions.Chinese.Japanese.htm>

最高

September 18, 2011

Japanese Romaji: saikou

Japanese Meaning: highest / supreme / the most / the best / the greatest / highest level

Parts:

sai(mo, motto) - extreme / most / utmost / greatest / prime / conspicuous

kou(taka, daka) - high / tall / expensive / quantity / amount / volume / number / amount of money /

High (abbreviation of "High School" following a school's name) / (Prefix) high- / maximum / the limit

Chinese Pinyin: zuìgāo

Chinese Meaning: highest / supreme / the most / the best / the greatest / highest level / tallest

Parts:

zuì - extreme / most / the most / utmost / -est (suffix) / extremely / exceedingly / superlative

gāo - high / tall / lofty / of a high level or degree / elevated / above average / loud / your (honorific)

*Note 1: this term can refer to anything which can have a degree of "highness" (e.g. height, weight, depth, cost, quality of material, skill, etc.)

*Note 2: 2 variants of the first character are 最 and 𡗗 A variant of the second character is 高

兄弟

September 19, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kyoudai

Japanese Meaning: siblings / brothers and sisters

Parts:

kyou(ani, nii, kei) - big brother / elder brother

dai(otouto, tei, de) - younger brother

Chinese Pinyin: xiōngdì

Chinese Meaning: brothers / brotherly / fraternal

Parts:

xiōng - big brother / elder brother

dì - younger brother / junior male

*Note: the Chinese term only refers to male siblings (i.e. brothers) or close male friends. 兄弟姐妹 / 兄弟姊妹 (xiōngdì jiěmèi) is used to refer to all siblings.

姉妹/姉/姐

September 20, 2011

Japanese Romaji: shimai

Japanese Meaning: sisters

Parts:

shi(ane, nee) - big sister / elder sister

mai(imouto) - younger sister

Chinese Pinyin1: jiěmèi

Chinese Meaning: sisters

Parts:

jiě - big sister / elder sister / young lady / young woman

mèi - younger sister

Chinese Pinyin2: zǐmèi

Chinese Meaning: sisters

Parts:

zǐ - big sister / elder sister

mèi - younger sister

*Note 1: the first Chinese character is the actual alternative form of the Japanese character. The second Chinese character is a different character which can be used in roughly the same way as the first.

*Note 2: the Chinese term can also be used to refer to close female friends.

乾草

September 21, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kansou / hoshikusa

Japanese Meaning: hay / dry grass

Parts:

kan(kawa, hi, ho, hoshi, ken, gen, inui) - dry / arid / drought / desiccate / drink up / emperor / heaven /
 qian (one of the trigrams of the I Ching: heaven, northwest, male principle, ☰)
 sou(kusa, gusa) - grass / pasture / weeds / herbs / thatch / (prefix) not genuine, substandard /
 (archaism) ninja / (abbreviation) draft (of a document), rough copy / write / cursive script / "grass" kanji

*Note 1: the “hoshikusa” reading can also be written as 干し草 or 干し草

*Note 2: in Japanese, 草臥れる (to get tired) is read as “kutabireru”; 草鞋 (straw sandals) is read as “waraji”

Chinese Pinyin: gāncǎo

Chinese Meaning: hay / dry grass

Parts:

gān(qián) - dry / arid / dried up / drained off / exhausted / desiccate / drink up / drink all / empty / clean /
 dried food, vegetable, fruit / foster / adoptive / adopted / not related by blood / in vain / vainly /
 helplessly / doing nothing / for nothing / to ignore / qian (one of the trigrams of the I Ching: heaven,
 northwest, male principle, ☰) / first hexagram of the I Ching / warming principle of the sun,
 penetrating and fertilizing, heavenly generative principle (male)
 cǎo - grass / pasture / weeds / herbs / straw / thatch / any such green, leafy plant without any bark
 (plants, not trees) / manuscript / draft (of a document) / careless / coarse / crude / rough / the script
 type of Chinese calligraphy

*Note 3: 乾杯 (kanpai, gānbēi) is said during toasts. The English equivalents are “cheers!” or “bottoms up!” It literally means “a dry glass”.

*Note 4: the simplified Chinese version of the first character (干) is also a separate traditional Chinese character and the simplified Chinese version of 幹

*Note 5: 2 variants of the first character are 乾 and 乾 A variant of the second character is 艸

*Note 6: the second character has an alternate reading in Chinese (cào), which is a swear word.

和平

September 22, 2011

Japanese Romaji: wahei

Japanese Meaning: peace

Parts:

wa(a, nago, yawa, ka, yori) - harmony / peace / peaceful / sum / soften / Japan / Japanese style / Nippo- / poorly-built / weak / insubstantial

hei(tai, dai, hira, hyou, byou) - even / flat / level / something broad and flat / palm of the hand / equal / equality / peace / peaceful / amity / common / ordinary / (Abbreviation) low-ranking employee / freshman / novice / private

*Note 1: 大和 (an old name for Japan) is read as "Yamato"

Chinese Pinyin: hépíng

Chinese Meaning: peace / peaceful

Parts:

hé(huò, huó, hè, hú) - harmony / harmonious / on good terms / peace / peaceful / calm / gentle / mild / and / together with / with / to / as / sum / union / aggregate / gross (sum) / make peace / cease fighting / draw (score) / tie (a match, game, etc.) / Japanese related / Japanese (food, clothes, etc.) / to mix together / to blend / to stir / soft / warm / to compose a poem in reply (to somebody's poem) using the same rhyme sequence / to join in the singing / to chime in with others / sing along with others / echo what others say / to make sounds in concert with / to complete a set in mahjong or playing cards / winning hand in mahjong or card games

píng - even / flat / level / equal / equality / calm / peace / peaceful / amity / to tie (score) / to draw (score) / make the same score / control / regulate / conquer / quell (a revolt) / pacify / pacification / pacified territory / bring peace to / calm down / go back to normal after sharp rises (said of prices) / (Cantonese) cheap

*Note 2: 3 variants of the first character are 龢 味 愜

工科

September 23, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kouka

Japanese Meaning: engineering (course)

Parts:

kou(ku, gu, takumi) - construction / craft / skill / work / art / workman / artisan / mechanic / carpenter / (factory) worker / means / idea

ka(shina, toga) - course (of study) / department / section / faculty / field / branch of study / specialization / school / arm / (taxonomical) family / article / item / thing / goods / stock / quality / flirtatiousness / coquetry / error / mistake / fault / sin / wrongdoing / offense

Chinese Pinyin: gōngkē

Chinese Meaning: engineering as an academic subject

Parts:

gōng - work / worker / workman / labor / labour / laborer / labourer / skill / profession / trade / industry / craft / be skilled in / shift / time used in doing a piece of work / day's work / engineering or building project / defense work / fine / delicate

kē - course (of study) / department / administrative section / field / division / branch of academic or vocational studies / science / family (taxonomy) / class / variety / family (of plants or animals) / rules / laws / stage directions / the action in Chinese opera / subject in the civil service examination of former times / mete out (prison, terms, punishment, etc.) / to levy (taxes, etc.) / to fine somebody

洗濯

September 24, 2011

Japanese Romaji: sentaku

Japanese Meaning: washing / laundry

Parts:

sen(ara) - wash / probe / inquire into

taku(susu, soso, yusu) - laundry / rinse / wash / pour on

Chinese Pinyin: xǐzhuó

Chinese Meaning: to wash / to cleanse / lavage / to launder

Parts:

xǐ - wash / rinse / clean / cleanse / clear / bathe / purify / develop (a photograph) / baptize / (Cantonese)
necessary

zhuó(zhào) - wash out / rinse / cleanse

*Note: the second character is a variant of 濯

橋梁

September 25, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kyouryou

Japanese Meaning: bridge

Parts:

kyou(hashi, bashi) - bridge / pons (pontes) / pons Varolii / pontine / part of the brain stem (links the medulla oblongata and cerebellum with the midbrain)

ryou(hari, bari) - beam / girder / joist / weir / fish trap / Liang Dynasty (of China)

Chinese Pinyin: qiáoliáng

Chinese Meaning: bridge / (figuratively) connection between two areas

Parts:

qiáo - bridge / beam / crosspiece / (Cantonese) idea, pointer, trick

liáng - beam of roof / girder / rafters / bridge / name of Kingdoms and Dynasties at different periods

*Note: a variant of the first character is 橋 A variant of the second character is 樑

寺院

September 26, 2011

Japanese Romaji: jiin

Japanese Meaning: temple

Parts:

ji(tera) - Buddhist temple

in - institution / temple / mansion / school

Chinese Pinyin: sìyuàn

Chinese Meaning: temple / monastery / cloister

Parts:

sì - Buddhist temple / monastery / mosque / court / office

yuàn - institution / school / courtyard / court / yard

鉄板/鐵

September 27, 2011

Japanese Romaji: teppan

Japanese Meaning: iron plate (e.g. for teppan'yaki)

Parts:

tetsu(kurogane) - iron (metal) / ferrum (Fe) / (figuratively) something extremely strong

pan(ita, han, ban) - board / plank / sheet (of metal) / plate (of glass) / pane / slab / cutting board /

chopping board / (abbreviation) chef (especially of high-end Japanese cuisine) / a cook / stage (i.e. at a theatre)

*Note 1: The explanation on why "tetsu" becomes "tep" is here: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/つ>
(The "tsu" changes to something called a "little tsu")

Chinese Pinyin: tiěbǎn

Chinese Meaning: iron panel / hot iron plate for fast grilling (e.g. for teppan'yaki)

Parts:

tiě - iron (metal) / ferrum (Fe) / hard / strong / solid / firm / ironclad / unshakeable / determined / violent / cruel / merciless / ruthless / unfeeling / railway / arms / weapons / close / tight (slang)

bǎn - board / plank / plate (of iron, tin, aluminum, etc.) / slab / shutter / table tennis bat / clappers (music) / accented beat in Chinese music / hard / stiff / to stop smiling or look serious / printing blocks

*Note 2: three other variants of the first character are: 鉄鐵鐵. In Chinese, 鉄 is also a variant of 鉄 (zhì). The second character is also the simplified Chinese version of 闢.

連絡

September 28, 2011

Japanese Romaji: renraku

Japanese Meaning: to contact / to get in touch / correspondence / connection / junction

Parts:

ren(tsura, tsu, dzu) - connect / join / link / party / gang / croup / clique / lead / take along

raku(kara) - entwine / get caught in / coil around

Chinese Pinyin: liánluò

Chinese Meaning: to contact / to get in touch / correspondence / connection / junction / liaison

Parts:

lián - connect / join / link / involve / continuous / in succession / including / together with / besides / even / to the extent of

luò(lào) - wrap around / encompass / enmesh / web / net / net-like / associate / unite / connected

答案

September 29, 2011

Japanese Romaji: touan

Japanese Meaning: examination paper / examination script

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 試卷 (shìjuàn)

Parts:

tou(kota) - answer / solution

an(tsukue) - idea / plan / ponder / bill / draft / proposition / suggestion / expectation / fear / worry / desk

Chinese Pinyin: dá'àn

Chinese Meaning: answer / solution

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 解答 (kaitou)

Parts:

dá(dā) - reply / answer / return / reciprocate / respond / echo / assent to / agree

àn - (legal) case / incident / record / file / archives / draft / proposal / plan / option / table / bench / desk

熱帶/帶

September 30, 2011

Japanese Romaji: nettai

Japanese Meaning: the tropics / tropical

Parts:

netsu(atsu) - hot (of weather) / heat / temperature / fever / zeal / passion / enthusiasm / mania / craze / rage

tai(o, obi) - belt / strap / sash / obi (kimono sash) / zone / region / paper wrapper on books, CDs, etc. /

band (e.g. conduction, valence) / belt (e.g. Van-Allen, asteroid, etc.)

Chinese Pinyin: rèdài

Chinese Meaning: the tropics / tropical

Parts:

rè - hot (of weather) / heat / heated / burning / fervent / fever / to warm up / to heat up / restless / zeal / zealous / passionate / earnest / ardent / enthusiastic

dài - belt / strap / band / girdle / ribbon / tape / tyre / tire / area / zone / region / to wear / to carry / to take along / to bring / to bear (i.e. to have) / with / contain / to lead / to head / to look after / to raise

經濟/經濟

October 1, 2011

Japanese Romaji: keizai

Japanese Meaning: economics / economy / business / finance

Parts:

kei(ta, tate, tateito, he, kyou) - pass through / expire / longitude / warp (in fabric) / sutra / Buddhist scriptures / the vertical / height / front-to-back / length / north-to-south / vertical (relationship) / hierarchy / (weaving) warp

zai(su, zu, sumi, zumi, dara, sai, sei) - come to an end / finish / completed / excusable / need not

*Note 1: in Japanese, 経緯 (particulars of a story) is read as "ikisatsu"

Chinese Pinyin: jīngjì

Chinese Meaning: economics / economy / business / finance

Parts:

jīng - pass through / pass by / undergo / longitude / warp (in fabric) / things running lengthwise / religious scripture / sacred book / classics / books of significant value / common or customary ways / rules / regulations / plan / arrange / regulate / rule / manage / deal in / engage / to stand / to bear / endure / menses / human arteries, etc. / as a result / after

jì(jǐ) - to cross a river / to ferry / to aid or relieve / helpful / beneficial / (of people) many / numerous

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 經

辞典/辭

October 2, 2011

Japanese Romaji: jiten

Japanese Meaning: dictionary

Parts:

ji(ina, ya) - expression / term / words / speech / address (e.g. opening or closing remarks) / phrase / to resign / quit / ci (Chinese literary form) / ancillary word

ten(den, nori) - code / law / rule / ceremony / celebration / law code

Chinese Pinyin: cídiǎn

Chinese Meaning: dictionary

Parts:

cí - expression / term / words / speech / phrase / diction / phraseology / resign / quit / to hand in / take leave / part from / bid adieu / depart / to go away from / dismiss / discharge / to fire / decline / shirk / evade / ballad (archaic poetic genre) / a type of classical Chinese literature or poetry

diǎn - law / rule / code / canon / statute / documentation / classic / scripture / standard work of scholarship / literary quotation or allusion / tale or story from the classics / ceremony / to be in charge of / take charge of / to mortgage / to pawn

*Note 1: in Chinese, this word is also written as 詞典

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 3: 2 more variants of the first character are 辭 and 辭. The first character is also a Chinese variant of 詞

聴覚/聽覺

October 3, 2011

Japanese Romaji: choukaku

Japanese Meaning: the sense of hearing / acoustic sense / auditory sense

Parts:

chou(ki, yuru) - listen / hear / careful inquiry / headstrong / naughty

kaku(obo, sa, sato) - memorize / remember / memory / sense / experience / learn / awake / sober up

Chinese Pinyin: tīngjué

Chinese Meaning: the sense of hearing / auditory

Parts:

tīng(tìng) - listen / hear / understand / obey / comply with / heed / to let / to allow / to rule / to sentence / a can (loanword from English "tin") / counter for canned beverages / (Cantonese) await / (Cantonese) tomorrow

jué(jiào) - feel / feeling / to find that / to sense / senses / thinking / awake / (become) aware / conscious / consciousness / realize / discover / awaken / to wake up from sleep / nap / sleep

*Note: another variant of the first character is 聽 Another variant of the second character is 覺

目標

October 4, 2011

Japanese Romaji: mokuhyou

Japanese Meaning: objective / target / goal / mark

Parts:

moku(ma, me, boku) - eye / eyeball / eyesight / sight / vision / look / stare / glance / insight / experience / viewpoint / favor / care / stitch / texture / weave / class / category / ordinal number suffix (-st, -nd, -rd, -th, etc.) / somewhat / -ish / (biological) order / item (of a budget revision, etc.) / counter for go pieces / counter for surrounded positions (in go)

hyou(shirushi, shirube, shime) - mark / sign / emblem / symbol / imprint / badge / crest / flag / seal / trademark / evidence / proof / signpost / stamp / souvenir / token (of gratitude, affection, etc.) / target / guidance / guide

Chinese Pinyin: mùbiāo

Chinese Meaning: objective / target / goal / mark

Parts:

mù - eye / look / see / regard / item / section / list / catalogue / table of contents / order (taxonomy) / division / category / topic / goal / name / title

biāo - the topmost branches of a tree / surface / a mark / emblem / symbol / label / tag / indicate / sign / indication / to mark / to show / standard / a model / paragon / bid / tender / prize / award

散歩/歩

October 5, 2011

Japanese Romaji: sanpo

Japanese Meaning: a walk / a stroll

Parts:

san(chi, bara) - disperse / scatter / spend / squander

po(ayu, aru, fu, bu, ho) - walk / a step / pace / stride / counter for steps / pawn (in chess or shogi) / unit of land measurement / 3.95 square yards / 3.31 square metres (meters)

Chinese Pinyin: sànbù

Chinese Meaning: to take a walk / to go for a walk / take a stroll

Parts:

sàn(sǎn) - disperse / scatter / to distribute / disseminate / spread / to let out / to fire or discharge (someone) / (colloquial) to sack / to break up (of couples) / to break up (a meeting, etc.) / to dispel / get rid of / remove / get over / leisurely / undisciplined / unrestricted / slack / loosen / scattered / loose / to come loose / to fall apart / dissolved / broken up / powdered medicine / medicinal powder

bù - walk / step / pace / stride / stroll / on foot / march / stages in a process / situation / state / degree / banks of rivers, ponds, etc. / fortune / doom / counter for steps / a unit in length in ancient China of about 5.5 feet

*Note: a variant of the first character is 散. A variant of the second character is 走

微笑

October 6, 2011

Japanese Romaji: bishou

Japanese Meaning: smile

Parts:

bi(kasu) - minuteness / insignificance / delicate / one millionth

shou(e, wara) - laugh

Chinese Pinyin: wēixiào / wéixiào

Chinese Meaning: smile / to smile

Parts:

wēi(wéi) - minute / tiny / miniature / small / slight / little / trifling / insignificant / trivial / humble / profound / abstruse / subtle / slightly / a little bit / to decline / dwindle / deteriorate / micro- (prefix) / one millionth part of

xiào - laugh / smile / giggle / snicker / titter / grin / chuckle / ridicule / deride / jeer

*Note: a variant of the second character is 咲, which is a separate character in Japanese

過去

October 7, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kako

Japanese Meaning: the past / bygone days / the previous / a past (i.e. a personal history one would prefer remained secret) / one's past / past (tense) / preterit / preterite / (Buddhism) previous life

Parts:

ka(ayama, su, yo, yogi) - exceed / go beyond / overdo / error / surplus- (attaches to start of Sino-Japanese words) / excess- / over- / per- (chemical with more of a certain element than found in other compounds of the same constituents)

ko(sa, kyo) - past / gone / leave / quit / eliminate / elapse / divorce

Chinese Pinyin: guòqu / guòqù

Chinese Meaning: (in the) past / bygone days / former / previous / to go over / to pass by / past (tense)

Parts:

guò - surpass / exceed / excel / too (much) / excessive / excessively / unduly / pass through / to cross / go across / walk / to go over / to pass (time) / spend time / to celebrate (a holiday) / to live / to get along / mistake / demerit / fault / (particle for experienced actions) / (particle used for comparison)
qu(qù) - to go / to go to (a place) / go away / leave (for) / depart from / past / gone / previous / last / distance / to cause to go or send (somebody) / to remove / to get rid of / do away with / give up / (when used either before or after a verb) to go in order to do something / to be apart from in space or time / (after a verb of motion indicates movement away from the speaker) / (used after certain verbs to indicate detachment or separation) / (verb particle indicating direction) / (phonetics) departing tone / (of a time or an event etc.) just passed or elapsed

*Note: a variant of the second character is 去

未来/來

October 8, 2011

Japanese Romaji: mirai

Japanese Meaning: the (distant) future / future tense / the world to come

Parts:

mi(ima, hitsuji, ma) - not yet / un- (prefix) / still / even now / hitherto / sign of the ram (zodiac) / eighth sign of the Chinese zodiac

rai(ki, kita, ku, ko, tai) - come / next (year, etc.) / coming (year, etc.) / since (last month, etc.) / in (a span of time) / due / cause / become

Chinese Pinyin: wèilái

Chinese Meaning: future / tomorrow / approaching / coming / pending

Parts:

wèi - not yet / did not / have not / not / still / sign of the ram (zodiac) / eighth sign of the Chinese zodiac

lái - come / coming / arrive / occur / future / next / to come back / to come round / return / returning / ever since / for / in / during / over / particle used after a verb to indicate the result / particle used after more than one numeral to list the point

*Note: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

投票

October 9, 2011

Japanese Romaji: touhyou

Japanese Meaning: voting / poll

Parts:

tou(na) - discard / abandon / give up / throw / hurl / launch into / join / invest in / sell at a loss

hyou(pyou) - ballot / ticket / sign / label

Chinese Pinyin: tóupiào

Chinese Meaning: vote / to vote

Parts:

tóu - throw / cast / fling / toss / hurl / pitch / plunge into / jump / throw oneself into / join / invest in / send / deliver / put in / drop / fit in with / agree with / cater to / project / produce / cast

piào - ballot / ticket / bank note / bill / slip of paper / hostage / amateur performance / counter for shipments and business transactions

童話

October 10, 2011

Japanese Romaji: douwa

Japanese Meaning: fairy tale

Parts:

dou(pa, warabe, warawa) - child / juvenile

wa(hana, hanashi, banashi) - talk / speech / chat / talking / speaking / story / lecture / narrative / tale / conversation / topic / subject / discussions / negotiation / consultation / argument / rumors / rumours / counter for stories, episodes of TV series, etc.

Chinese Pinyin: tónghuà

Chinese Meaning: children's fairy tales

Parts:

tóng - boy / child / children / minor / virgin / servant boy / bare / bald / barren (hill, etc.)

huà - language / dialect / speech / talk / speak / tell / conversation / spoken words / words / sayings / say / what somebody said

*Note 1: the picture is of the Little Red Riding Hood meeting the tanuki-transformed tea kettle from the Japanese story of Bunbuku Chagama (ぶんぶく茶釜).

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 譚

秘密

October 11, 2011

Japanese Romaji: himitsu

Japanese Meaning: secret / secrecy / confidential

Parts:

hi(hiso) - secret / conceal / hide

mitsu(hiso) - thickness / density / secrecy / minuteness / minute / fine / carefulness

Chinese Pinyin: mìmì

Chinese Meaning: secret / secrecy / confidential

Parts:

mì(bì) - secret / mysterious / abstruse / rare / secretary / constipated / blocked / (abbreviation) Peru

mì - thick / tight / dense / secret / confidential / close / intimate

*Note: a variant of the first character is 祕

衛星

October 12, 2011

Japanese Romaji: eisei

Japanese Meaning: (space) satellite (either man-made or natural)

Parts:

ei(e) - defence / protection / guard

sei(hoshi, boshi) - star / any light-emitting (or reflecting) heavenly body (except for the sun and the moon) / dot / mark / spot / suspect (police slang)

Chinese Pinyin: wèixīng

Chinese Meaning: (space) satellite (either man-made or natural) / moon

Parts:

wèi - to defend / protect / guard / abbreviation for 衛生 (hygiene) / health / abbreviation for 衛生間 (toilet) / vassal state during the Zhou Dynasty (1066-221 BC), located in present day Henan and Hebei Provinces

xīng - star / planet / satellite / any point of light in the sky / any heavenly body that shines / spark / sparks / very tiny / small amount / droplets / small particles of anything / star (famous person) / by night / nocturnal / an ancient percussion instrument

*Note 1 : the days of the week in Chinese are (from Monday to Sunday): 星期一、星期二、星期三、星期四、星期五、星期六、星期日. The pattern of kanji in a week is the numbers one to six, then “day”. The days of the week in Japanese are (from Monday to Sunday): 月曜日、火曜日、水曜日、木曜日、金曜日、土曜日、日曜日. The pattern of kanji in a week is “moon”, “fire”, “water”, “wood”, “gold”, “earth”, “day”.

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 衛 Three variants of the second character are 壘壘壘

直線

October 13, 2011

Japanese Romaji: chokusen

Japanese Meaning: straight line

Parts:

choku(su, tada, nao, ne, jika, jiki, hita) - straightaway / direct / straight / in person / honesty / frankness / simplicity / cheerfulness / correctness / night duty / shift (e.g. in a factory) / fix / repair / soon / in a moment / before long / shortly / nearby / close / spot transaction / cash transaction / ordinary / common / doing nothing / earnestly / immediately / exactly / price / cost / value / worth / merit
 sen - line (e.g. telephone, of a railroad, of action, etc.) / stripe / stria / wire / track / route / lane / beam / ray (e.g. X-ray) / outline / contours / form / level / division / position / approach / policy / principle / impression one gives / air one gives off

Chinese Pinyin: zhíxiàn

Chinese Meaning: straight line / direct line

Parts:

zhí - straight / to straighten / alignment / aligned / fair and reasonable / frank / upright and honest / unbiased / straightforward / outspoken / harmonious / (indicates continuing motion or action) / vertical / longitudinal / erect / from bottom to bottom / directly / firsthand / continuous / uninterrupted / stiff / numb / just / simply / only / merely / vertical downward stroke in Chinese characters
 xiàn - line (e.g. telephone, of a railroad, of action, etc.) / string / wire / thread / cotton / track / traffic line / route / political line / demarcation line / boundary / brink / clue / undercover agent / secret agent / counter for a ray or thread of (hope)

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the first character is also used in Taiwan.

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 綫

戦車/戰

October 14, 2011

Japanese Romaji: sensha

Japanese Meaning: tank (military vehicle)

Parts:

sen(ikusa, onono, soyo, tataka, wana, wanana) - battle / fight / war / campaign / match / competition / (archaism) troops, forces / soldier / warrior

sha(kuruma, guruma) - car / automobile / vehicle / carriage / cart / wheel / caster

Chinese Pinyin: zhànchē

Chinese Meaning: tank (military vehicle) / war chariot

Parts:

zhàn - battle / fight / fighting / war / warfare / match / competition / contest / contend / shudder / shiver / tremble

chē(jū) - car / automobile / vehicle / cart / wheeled machine / machine / instrument / carry in a cart / to shape with a lathe / lathe / turn / lift water by a water wheel / war chariot (archaic) / rook (in chess)

千万/萬

October 15, 2011

Japanese Romaji: senman / senban

Japanese Meaning: ten million / myriad

Parts:

sen(chi, zen) - thousand

man(yorozu, ban) - ten thousand / myriad / many / all / everything

Chinese Pinyin: qiānwàn

Chinese Meaning: ten million / myriad / a large amount / countless / many / one must by all means

Parts:

qiān - thousand / many / numerous / very

wàn - ten thousand / myriad / innumerable / a great number / very / extremely / absolutely

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: in spoken Chinese and Japanese, large numbers are separated in groups of four digits whereas they are in groups of three digits in English. 100,000 = 10 万; 1,000,000 = 100 万; 10,000,000 = 1000 万; 100,000,000 = 1 億; 1,000,000,000 = 10 億; etc.

反对/對

October 16, 2011

Japanese Romaji: hantai

Japanese Meaning: opposition / resistance / antagonism / hostility / contrast / objection / dissension / reverse / opposite / vice versa / defiance

Parts:

han(kae, so, zo, tan, ho, hon) - anti (prefix) / opposite / antithesis / antagonism / variable measure of fabric (28.8 cm in width) / for kimono: at least 10 m in length / for haori: at least 7.27 m in length / for other clothes: at least 6.06 m in length / 300 tsubo (991.74 meters square, 0.24506 acres) / six ken (10.91 m)

tai(ai, muka, tsui) - opposite / opposition / versus / vs. / vis-à-vis / to (i.e. "we won the game five to three") / equal footing / equal terms / even / against / anti (prefix) / toward / compare / pair / couple / set / antithesis / counter for items that come in pairs / counter for sets (of clothes, utensils, furniture, etc.)

Chinese Pinyin: fǎnduì

Chinese Meaning: opposition / to oppose / to be opposed to / to object / objection / resistance / antagonism / dissension / to fight against / to be against / to counter

Parts:

fǎn - anti (prefix) / opposite / antagonism / contrary / in reverse / inside-out or upside-down / turn over / to reverse / to return (something) / turn back / turn around / retreat / introspect / retrospect / to oppose / go against / to combat / to rebel / rebellion / revolt / to counter / rebuke / to use analogy / instead / on the contrary / infer / abbreviation for 反切 phonetic system

duì - to oppose / to be opposite / opposed / parallel / to face / facing / towards / at / to direct (towards something) / for / to / as to / versus / vs. / couple (two things) / pair / to match together / correct (answer) / right / proper / to answer / to reply / to treat (somebody a certain way) / with regard to / to adjust / to fit / to suit / to check / ascertain / counter for pairs, a couple of things

農業

October 17, 2011

Japanese Romaji: nougyou

Japanese Meaning: agriculture / farming

Parts:

nou - agriculture / farming / farmer

gyou(waza, gou) - work / business / vocation / occupation / profession / job / trade / a living / what one does to earn a living / task / the job at hand / study / studies / scholarship / deed / act / performance / the arts / a work of great significance or intent / an intentional act or action / a matter or affair (implies a problem) / a technique / a means of doing something / a disaster / misfortune / calamity / a Buddhist memorial service / (Buddhism) karma (i.e. actions committed in a former life) / sin / misdeed

Chinese Pinyin: nóngyè

Chinese Meaning: agriculture / farming

Parts:

nóng - agriculture / farming / farmer / to farm / peasant / husbandman / rural / diligent (archaic) / government field official (archaic)

yè - work / business / line of business / vocation / industry / occupation / profession / trade / job / employment / calling / study / school studies / estate / property / enterprise / (Buddhism) karma / deed / to engage in / already

*Note: a variant of the first character is 農

悪事/悪

October 18, 2011

Japanese Romaji: akuji

Japanese Meaning: evil / evil deed / crime / wickedness / evildoing

Parts:

aku(a, niku, waru, o) - bad / evil / foul / wickedness / bad thing / bad person / false / wrong / vice
 ji(koto, goto, zu) - matter / thing / issue / occasions / circumstances / situation / affair / state of affairs / details / particulars / something / accident / incident / case / occurrence / event / something serious / trouble / crisis / experience / business / work / duty / fact / worthwhileness / reason / abstract concept or thing (as opposed to a tangible object) / after an inflectable word, creates a noun phrase indicating something the speaker does not feel close to / nominalizing suffix / pretending to ... / playing make-believe ...

Chinese Pinyin: èshì

Chinese Meaning: evil / malicious deed

Parts:

è(ě, wù) - bad / evil / wicked / foul / fierce / ferocious / mean / vicious / vice / ugly / disgust / sicken / scorn / coarse / to harm / to hate / detest / dislike / abhor / to loathe / ashamed / to fear / to slander / how / where / oh / ah
 shì - matter / matters / thing / issue / business / affair / event / happening / accident / incident / occurrence / trouble / undesirable event / item / work / job / career / occupation / task / duties / functions / to serve / service / fact / subject / attend / do / manage a business / often part of a title

*Note: 2 more Chinese variants of the first character are 噁 and 藹 2 variants of the second character are 事 and 叟

結婚

October 19, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kekkon

Japanese Meaning: marriage

Parts:

ketsu(i, musu, yu, kechi) - join / bind / tie / fasten / do up hair / contract / organize

kon - marriage

Chinese Pinyin: jiéhūn

Chinese Meaning: to marry / to get married

Parts:

jié(jiē) - join / bind / tie / bond / connect / unite / knot / weave / sturdy / tough / strong / durable /
congeal / form / found / constitute / to bear fruit / form (seed) / to produce / firm / solid / pay / settle
(account, etc.) / to check out (of a hotel) / result / node / stutter / stammer

hūn - marriage / get married / wedding / marry / wed / to take a wife

回轉/轉

October 20, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kaiten

Japanese Meaning: rotation (around something) / revolution / turning

Parts:

kai(mawa, megu, motoo, e) - turn / -times (suffix) / occasion / revolve / game / round / counter for occurrences / counter for games, rounds, etc. / inning (baseball)

ten(utata, kuru, koro, maro) - revolve / turn around / change / altering pronunciation or meaning / word with altered pronunciation or meaning / (abbreviation) turning or twisting part of a text (in Chinese poetry)

Chinese Pinyin: huízhuǎn

Chinese Meaning: to rotate / turn round / turn around / slalom

Parts:

huí - to turn around / to go back / to return / rotate / to circle / to revolve / to answer / reply / report back / politely refuse / decline / dismiss / a time / counter for occurrences / counter for acts of a play / section or chapter (of a classic book) / (counter) piece (as used for happenings or events) / Hui ethnic group (Chinese Muslims)

zhuǎn(zhuàn) - to turn / to revolve / to rotate / to spin / to circle about / to walk about / to convey / to forward (mail) / to transfer / to pass on / to transmit / to move / to shift / change / counter for turns, revolutions / counter for repeated actions

*Note 1: kaitenzushi (回轉寿司) is the Japanese name for conveyor belt sushi / sushi-go-round.

*Note 2: the first character is also the simplified Chinese version of 迴

*Note 3: 2 variants of the first character are 回 and 囬

木製

October 21, 2011

Japanese Romaji: mokusei

Japanese Meaning: wooden / made of wood

Parts:

moku(ki, gi, ko, boku) - tree / shrub / wood / wooden / timber / lumber / wood grain / the bent and gnarled trunk or roots of an old tree / Thursday / in ancient China, a wooden musical instrument
sei - make (noun) / -made (suffix) / made in... / manufacture

Chinese Pinyin: mùzhì

Chinese Meaning: wooden / made of wood

Parts:

mù - tree / wood / wooden / made of wood / timber / lumber / coffin / simple / honest / senseless / numb / dull / benumbed / one of the eight ancient musical instruments 八音
zhì - to manufacture / to make / produce / create / compose (writings, literature, etc.) / literary works / cut out garments and make them / form / model / fashion / pattern

*Note: a variant of the second character is 制 (which is also the simplified Chinese version)

週末

October 22, 2011

Japanese Romaji: shuumatsu

Japanese Meaning: weekend

Parts:

shuu - week

matsu(ura, ure, sue, zue, batsu) - end / close (e.g. close of the month) / last / future / finally / the tip of / top / top end / the end of / trivialities / insignificant / posterity / descendants / offspring / youngest child / powder / (archaism) new shoots, new growth (of a tree), the trunk or leaves of a tree, the tips of the branches of a tree

Chinese Pinyin: zhōumò

Chinese Meaning: weekend

Parts:

zhōu - week / period (weekly, annual, etc.) / turn / anniversary / cycle / circuit / circle / circular / perimeter / circumference / periphery / whole / all over / all around

mò - end / last / final stage / latter part / close (e.g. close of the month) / late / recent / the end of (some object) / the tip of / trivialities / insignificant / unimportant / inessential detail / the four limbs / dust / powder / posterity / opera role of old man

*Note 1: (* ° ▽ ° *)

*Note 2: the simplified Chinese version of the first character (周) is also a separate traditional character. The first character is also a variant of it.

不変/變

October 23, 2011

Japanese Romaji: fuhēn

Japanese Meaning: constant / everlasting / eternal / unchangeable / immutable / immovable / permanent / indestructible

Parts:

fu(bu) - un- / non- / in- / negative prefix / bad... / poor... / negative / clumsy / ugly

hen(ka, ga, pen) - change / strange / odd / peculiar / unusual / weird / curious / queer / eccentric / funny / suspicious / fishy / unexpected / incident / disturbance / disaster / accident / flat (music)

Chinese Pinyin: bùbiàn

Chinese Meaning: constant / unvarying / unchanging / (math) invariant

Parts:

bù(bú, bu) - un- / non- / not / no / (negative prefix)

biàn - change / become different / transform / alter / to vary / turn into / extraordinarily / uncommon / accident / misfortune / tragedy / upheaval / disturbance / unexpected turn of events / rebel / rebellion / changeable

健康

October 24, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kenkou

Japanese Meaning: healthy / health / fit / sound / wholesome

Parts:

ken(shitata, suko) - health / healthy / persistence / strength

kou - ease / peace

Chinese Pinyin: jiànkāng

Chinese Meaning: healthy / health / fit

Parts:

jiàn - health / healthy / to invigorate / vigorous / capable / to strengthen / toughen / strong / strength / robust / to be good at / to be strong in / fond of / inclined to / liable to

kāng - healthy / peaceful / quiet / happy / abundant / level / even and smooth (road, etc.)

河港

October 25, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kakou

Japanese Meaning: river port

Parts:

ka(ga, kawa, gawa) - river / stream

kou(minato) - harbour / harbor / port

Chinese Pinyin: hégǎng

Chinese Meaning: river port

Parts:

hé - river / stream / yellow river

gǎng - harbour / harbor / port / seaport / small stream / bay / gulf / short for Hong Kong (香港 Xiāng gǎng)

進化

October 26, 2011

Japanese Romaji: shinka

Japanese Meaning: evolution / progress

Parts:

shin(susu, jin) - advance / proceed / progress / promote

ka(ba, fu, ke) - act of making something / -ification (suffix of making something that way) / -ization (suffix) / influence / take the form of / change / enchant / delude

Chinese Pinyin: jìn huà

Chinese Meaning: evolution

Parts:

jìn - advance / make progress / go ahead / move forward / proceed / improve / improvement / enter / to come (or go) into / to receive or admit / to eat or drink / to submit or present / recommend / introduce / offer (advice, presents, gifts, etc.) / generation / income / (after a verb) into, in / to score a goal / rooms in a house divided by a courtyard / courtyard / take / have

huà(huā) - to make into / to change into / -ification (suffix of making something that way) / -ization (suffix) / to ...-ize / -ise (suffix) / -ify (suffix) / -ate (suffix) / convert / reform / to transform / influence / melt / dissolve / reduce / customs and habits / beg alms / (abbreviation) chemistry 化學 (huàxué)

*Note: a variant of the first character is 𨮒 The second character is also a variant of 花

皇帝

October 27, 2011

Japanese Romaji: koutei

Japanese Meaning: emperor

Parts:

kou(ou, nou, mi) - emperor

tei(mikado) - Emperor (of Japan) / emperor / creator / god / sovereign

Chinese Pinyin: huángdì

Chinese Meaning: emperor

Parts:

huáng - emperor / royal / imperial / ruler / sovereign / superior / beautiful / brilliant / uneasy / anxious

dì - emperor / supreme ruler / god / supreme being / deified being / imperial / imperialism

幸福

October 28, 2011

Japanese Romaji: koufuku

Japanese Meaning: blessedness / happiness / joy / well-being

Parts:

kou(saiwa, sachi, shiawa) - good luck / fortune / blessing / happiness / harvest / yield

fuku(puku) - good fortune / blessing / luck / wealth

Chinese Pinyin: xìngfú

Chinese Meaning: blessed / blissful / happiness / happy

Parts:

xìng - fortunate / lucky / luckily / fortunately / thanks to / well-being and happiness / feel happy about / favor / favour / imperial tour or progress

fú - good fortune / happiness / blessing / bliss / good luck

*Note: a variant of the first character is 倖 (which is also a separate character). A variant of the second character is 福

就職

October 29, 2011

Japanese Romaji: shuushoku

Japanese Meaning: inauguration / (successfully) finding employment / getting a job

Parts:

shuu(tsu, ju) - concerning / depart / per / settle / study / take position

shoku(shiki, joku, soku) - employment / post / work / agency (government department between a ministry and a bureau under the ritsuryo system)

Chinese Pinyin: jiùzhí

Chinese Meaning: inauguration / to take office / to assume a post

Parts:

jiù - simply / only / just (emphasis) / merely / exactly / precisely / definitely / namely / with regard to / concerning / as far as / at once / right away / forthwith / as early as / already / as soon as / then / in that case / as many as / as much as / even if / even though / to come / go to / to approach / to move towards / to near / arrive / to undertake / undergo / to engage in / enter upon / to suffer / subjected to / receive / follow / assume / accommodate / comply with / yield to / make use of / to take advantage of / avail oneself of / to accomplish / get ready / succeed / has been / have been / to go with (of foods)

zhí - office / duty / post / position / profession / vocation / career / official duties / govern / direct / manage / only / particularly / used in place of "I" in documents to a superior

*Note: 2 variants of the second character are 職 and 職

影響/響

October 30, 2011

Japanese Romaji: eikyou

Japanese Meaning: influence / effect

Parts:

ei(kage) - shadow / silhouette / phantom / reflection / image / presence / sign / light(stars, moon)

kyou(hibi) - echo / sound / reverberation / resound / ring / vibrate

Chinese Pinyin: yǐngxiǎng

Chinese Meaning: an influence / an effect / to influence / to affect (usually adversely) / to disturb

Parts:

yǐng - shadow / silhouette / reflection / image / film / picture / photograph / movie / trace / vague

impression / copy and imitate / hide / conceal / sundial

xiǎng - echo / sound / to make a sound / noise / to ring / loud / noisy / counter for noises

仮装/假裝

October 31, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kasou

Japanese Meaning: costume / disguise / masquerade / fancy dress

Parts:

ka(kari, ke) - assumed (name) / fictitious / alias / not real / unreal / imaginary / temporary / provisional / interim / informal / sham / fake / something without substance / lacking substance and existing in name only

sou(yosoo, shou) - clothing / attire / dress / disguise / pretend / profess / binding (of a book)

Chinese Pinyin: jiǎzhuāng

Chinese Meaning: to pretend / to feign / to fake / to make believe

Parts:

jiǎ(jià) - fake / false / falsehood / deception / artificial / not real / not genuine / sham / to borrow / if / suppose / vacation / holiday

zhuāng - clothing / dress / attire / outfit / clothes and personal effects / costume (of an actor in a play) / disguise / adornment / to adorn / decorate / to dress / make up / ornamental dressing / to play a role / to pretend / to feign / to install (machines, equipment, etc.) / to fix / to wrap (something in a bag) / to load / to pack / fill in / fill up / store up / keep

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: The Chinese term is more generalized (for example, it can be used in the contexts of “pretend to know something”, “pretend to be good at something”, “to put on fake emotions”), whereas the Japanese term specifically refers to pretending by dressing up in a costume.

*Note 3: another variant of the first character is 假

恐怖

November 1, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kyoufu

Japanese Meaning: fear / dread / dismay / terror / horror / scare / panic

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 害怕 (hàipà), 怕 (pà), 驚(jīng)

Parts:

kyou(oso, kowa) - dread / fear / awe / be afraid / threaten / probably

fu(o, oso, kowa) - dreadful / fearful / be frightened

Chinese Pinyin: kǒngbù

Chinese Meaning: frightening / frightful / terrible / terror / dread / terrifying / horrific / horror (movies) / terrorist

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 怖い (kawai)

Parts:

kǒng - fear / fearful / afraid / frightened / to fear / dread / be scared of / apprehensive / terrify / intimidate / threaten / perhaps / probably / may

bù - terror / terrified / afraid / frightened / fear / be afraid of / frighten / threaten

*Note 1: Although they can mean the same thing in certain cases, the Japanese term refers more to the emotion of fear, whereas the Chinese term is closer to describing something as being scary.

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 怖

緊張

November 2, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kinchou

Japanese Meaning: nervousness / tension / mental strain

Parts:

kin(shi) - tense (feeling) / tight / hard / solid / reliable

chou(ha, ba) - lengthen / spread / stretch / put up (tent) / counter for bows and stringed instruments

Chinese Pinyin: jǐnzhāng

Chinese Meaning: nervous / tense / strained / pressured / stressed / worried / keyed up / intense / in short supply / scarce

Parts:

jǐn - tense (feeling) / urgent / pressing (matter) / tight / to tighten / taut / firm / secure / fast / close / strict / rigorous / close at hand / near / hard up / short of money / (Cantonese) (used after a verb) aspect marker for ongoing action, in the process of

zhāng - lengthen / stretch / extend / expand / to open up / to spread / tense / strained / magnify / exaggerate / display / set up / show up / sheet of paper / look / counter for flat objects, sheet (paper, ticket, table, etc.) / counter for stretchable objects (bow, mouth, etc.) / counter for votes

女王

November 3, 2011

Japanese Romaji: jo'ou

Japanese Meaning: queen

Parts:

jo(onna, me, nyo, nyou) - female / woman / girl / daughter

ou(nou) - king / ruler / sovereign / monarch / magnate / rule / king (for senior player) (shogi)

Chinese Pinyin: nǚwáng

Chinese Meaning: queen

Parts:

nǚ(rǚ) - female / woman / girl / daughter / maiden / lady / feminine

wáng(wàng) - king / ruler / sovereign / monarch / royal / duke / prince / head of a gang / best or strongest of its type / largest of its kind / grand / great / to rule / to reign over / govern

*Note: the first character is also a variant of 汝

奈良

November 4, 2011

Japanese Romaji: nara

Japanese Meaning: Nara, an old capital of Japan / Nara (prefecture)

Parts:

na - short for Nara / what

ra(i, yo, ryou) - good / pleasing / skilled

*Note 1: Many kanji have many readings reserved specifically for usage in names of people and places (called nanori, 名乗り). “ra” for the second kanji is one example. An example of a reading that is often used outside of names is in the word for “often”: 良く (yoku). The only readings I have always included are on’yomi (音読み-Chinese reading) and kun’yomi (訓読み-Native reading). I won’t mention nanori readings unless I use any names for kanji.

Chinese Pinyin: nàiliáng

Chinese Meaning: Nara, an old capital of Japan / Nara (prefecture)

Parts:

nài - how / but / bear / stand / endure / cope / deal with

liáng - good / virtuous / respectable / fine / desirable / auspicious / beautiful / very / instinctive / inborn / innate

*Note 2: The picture is of the mascots for Nara’s 1300th anniversary in 2010 in Nara Park. The characters are Manto-kun, Sento-kun, and Naamu-kun with a deer and some deer-crackers(shika-senbei 鹿煎餅) in front of the Tōkon-dō (東金堂) and Five-storied pagoda (五重塔).

*Note 3: This is the 300th kanji.

同様/様

November 5, 2011

Japanese Romaji: douyou

Japanese Meaning: identical / equal to / same (kind) / like / similarity

Parts:

dou(ona) - same / similar / equal / agree / together with

you(sama, zama, san) - way / method / situation / manner / kind / appearance / polite suffix / Mr. / Mrs. / Ms. / esquire (Esq.) / form / style / design / like / similar to / mess / sorry state / plight / sad sight

Chinese Pinyin: tóngyàng

Chinese Meaning: same / similar / equal / equivalent

Parts:

tóng - same / similar / identical / together / in common / alike / with / as / like / and / as well as

yàng - manner / pattern / way / style / appearance / shape / form / looks / type / kind / sort / variety / sample / model / specimen

正確

November 6, 2011

Japanese Romaji: seikaku

Japanese Meaning: accurate / correct / punctual / exact / precise / authentic / veracious

Parts:

sei(tada, masa, shou, jou) - correct / exact / precise / (logical) true / regular / (abbreviation) original / (math) positive / greater than zero / justice / righteous / greater (of equal court ranks) / upper / senior / director (highest of the four administrative positions of the ritsuryo period) / chief / (before a number) exactly / precisely / 10^40

kaku(tashi, shikka) - certain / sure / definite / confirm / clear / evident / assurance / firm / hard / solid / tight

Chinese Pinyin: zhèngquè

Chinese Meaning: correct / proper / accurate

Parts:

zhèng(zhēng) - correct / right / just / proper / appropriate / positive / primary / main / chief / principal / standard / regular (shapes) / honest / upright / straight / middle / exact / exactly / precisely / just so / just now / right now / just happening / just continuing / (of time) punctual / sharp (on time) / standardized / unbiased / formal / rectify / to correct / set right / principle / pure / unadulterated / genuine / not contaminated / unmixed / pretty / straightforward / straighten / greater than zero / plus / obverse / person in charge / person in command / original (texts, etc.) / sharp / punctually / first / placed or situated in the middle / 10^40 / first month of the lunar year / first moon

què - certain / sure / true / real / authenticated / secure / valid / solid / firm

*Note 1: the first character is often used for tallying, much like English-speakers use 4 lines and a slash to represent "5" (note that it has five strokes).

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 确 (which is also the simplified Chinese form)

失敗

November 7, 2011

Japanese Romaji: shippai

Japanese Meaning: failure / mistake / fault / error / blunder / miscarriage

Parts:

shitsu(u, ushina) - error / fault / lose / loss / disadvantage

pai(hai, yabu) - loss / defeat / failure / reversal / counter for losses

Chinese Pinyin: shībài

Chinese Meaning: failure / defeat / to be defeated / to lose / loss / to fail / miscarriage

Parts:

shī - to lose / to miss / to fail / make a mistake / neglect / a mistake / omission / let slip

bài - be defeated / be beaten / lose (to an opponent) / to defeat / beat / vanquish / loss / decline / fail /

spoil / ruin / tarnish / to damage / worn / torn / rotten / to wither / faded

*Note: a variant of the second character is 敗

合唱

November 8, 2011

Japanese Romaji: gasshou

Japanese Meaning: chorus / singing in a chorus

Parts:

gatsu(a, ai, gou, katsu) - join / suit / fit / 0.1 / 0.18039 litres (liters) / 0.3306 metres square (meters) / one-tenth of the way from the base to the summit of a mountain / (astronomical) conjunction / counter for covered containers / counter for matches, battles, etc.

shou(tona) - chant / recite / yell / call upon

Chinese Pinyin: héchàng

Chinese Meaning: chorus / singing in a chorus / to chorus

Parts:

hé(gě) - to join / combine / unite / gather / bring together / collect / to fit / to suit / to agree / conform with / to close / to shut / to be equal to / add up to / whole / entire / all / together / jointly / proper / appropriate / round (in a battle) / 0.1 / conjunction (astronomy) / first note of pentatonic scale / 100 ml / one-tenth of a peck / measure for dry grain equal to one-tenth of sheng (升) or liter, or one-hundredth

dou (斗) / measure for grain, equal to 1 decilitre

chàng - sing / to call loudly / to chant / cry (out) / to crow / vocalize / song / ditty / singing part of a Chinese opera / (Cantonese) speak ill of, gossip maliciously

*Note: the first character is a variant of 盒 and the simplified Chinese form of 閣. A variant of the first character is 閣. A variant of the second character is 詠

遠足

November 9, 2011

Japanese Romaji: ensoku

Japanese Meaning: excursion / outing / trip

Parts:

en(too, on) - distant / far

soku(ashi, ta) - foot / leg / gait / pace / means of transportation / bottom structural component (i.e. radical) of a kanji / be sufficient / counter for pairs (of socks, shoes, etc.)

*Note: in Japanese, 裸足 (barefoot) is read as “hadashi”; 足袋 (Japanese style socks) is read as “tabi”

Chinese Pinyin: yuǎnzú

Chinese Meaning: excursion / outing / hike / march / walking tour

Parts:

yuǎn(yuàn) - distant / far away (in time or space) / distant in relationship / by far / far and away / not anywhere near / remote / profound / deep / keep at a distance / keep away from / shun / avoid / to distance oneself from (classical)

zú(jù) - foot / leg / attain / to be sufficient / ample / enough / adequate / satisfy / excessive / fully / as much as

裁判

November 10, 2011

Japanese Romaji: saiban

Japanese Meaning: trial / court / judgment / judgement

Parts:

sai(saba, ta) - judge / decision / tailor / cut out (pattern)

ban(waka, han) - judgement / judgment / seal / stamp / signature / size (of paper or books)

Chinese Pinyin: cáipàn

Chinese Meaning: judgment / judgement / judge / referee / umpire / to referee

Parts:

cái - decision / judgement / judgment / adjudicate / to rule / decide / to cut / to cut out (as a dress) / to trim / to reduce / to diminish / to cut back (on staff, etc.) / to cut down / dismiss / decrease

pàn - to judge / to sentence / condemn / discern / discriminate / distinguish / differentiate / obviously (different) / disparate / conclude

十一

November 11, 2011

Japanese Romaji: juuichi

Japanese Meaning: eleven

Parts:

juu(to, too, so, jitsu, jutsu) - ten

ichi(hito, itsu) - one / unity / the beginning / best in... / the most... (adjective)

*Note: in Japanese, 二十歳 (20 years old) is read as “hatachi”, 二十日 (20th day of the month) is read as “hatsuka”, 十六夜 (16th night of the month) is read as “izayoi”, and 九十九 (ninety-nine) is also read as “tsukumo”

Chinese Pinyin: shíyī

Chinese Meaning: eleven

Parts:

shí - ten / tenth / complete / completely / perfect / perfectly / extremely

yī - one / single / alone / unit / a / an / the / as soon as / once / each / per / every time / another / entire / whole / all / throughout / complete / union / uniformity / uniform / unify / unite / so / such / to such extent / same / together / a little

難解/難

November 12, 2011

Japanese Romaji: nankai

Japanese Meaning: difficult to understand / unintelligible / abstruse / obscurity / dense / obstruct / recondite

Parts:

nan(kata, gata, niku, muzuka) - difficulty / difficult / hard / hardship / impossible / defect / trouble / accident

kai(to, hotsu, hodo, hogu, waka, ge) - answer / solution / key / solve / absolve / explanation / explain / understanding / cancel / minute / notes / undo / unravel / untie

*Note 1: The casual Japanese word for “Thank you” (arigatou ありがとう) can be written in kanji as 有り難う or 有難う. 有難い/有り難い(arigatai) means “thankful” or “grateful”. In Chinese, 有難(yǒunán) can mean “to be having difficulties” or “to be in trouble”.

Chinese Pinyin: nánjiě

Chinese Meaning: hard to solve / hard to dispel / hard to understand / difficult to understand / hard to undo / obscurity

Parts:

nán(nàn) - difficult / difficulty / arduous / hard / not easy / unable / not in a position to / problem / trouble / unpleasant / not good / disaster / distress / calamity / misfortune / enemy / to scold / rebuke / reprove / reprimand / reject / (type of bird) / flourishing / rich / exorcise (e.g. illness or demon)

jiě(jiè, xiè) - to solve / to explain / to clarify / relieve / dispel / to interpret / explanation / interpretation / elucidate / to understand / see the point / to know / a solution / ideas / views / to divide / to break up / to split / to separate / cut apart / to disperse / a dissection / to dissolve / to melt / to remove / to untie / to loosen / to unfasten / to open / to undo / to emancipate / to transport under guard / send under guard / escort / acrobatic display (especially on horseback) (archaic)

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 解 The “xiè” reading is also a variant of 懈 and 邂

委員

November 13, 2011

Japanese Romaji: iin

Japanese Meaning: committee member

Parts:

i(yuda) - committee / devote / entrust to / leave to / discard

in - (suffix) member of... / employee / personnel / number / the one in charge

Chinese Pinyin: wěiyuán

Chinese Meaning: committee member / committee / council

Parts:

wěi(wēi) - committee member / council / to entrust / appoint / depute / deputize / deputise / send /
commission / put in charge of / to cast aside / to shift (blame, etc.) / stoop / lower oneself (to avoid
conflict) / to accumulate / roundabout / winding / curved / be frustrated / weakened / tired / dejected /
listless / grievance / wrong / give up / abandon / end / actually / certainly / really / truly / indeed

yuán - member / employee / person / staff member / personnel

野菜

November 14, 2011

Japanese Romaji: yasai

Japanese Meaning: vegetable

Parts:

ya(no) - plains / field / wild / area / rustic / civilian life / hidden (structural) member / lacking a political post

sai(na) - greens / vegetables / side dish / rapeseed

Chinese Pinyin: yěcài

Chinese Meaning: wild herb / potherb / wild plant

Parts:

yě - fields / plains / open country / countryside / open space / the open / suburb / wilderness / wild / feral / uncultured / undomesticated / coarse / untamed / unrestrained / barbarous / rude / rough / violent / boorish / boundary / limit / the people (as opposed to the government)

cài - greens / vegetables / cuisine / dish (type of food) / food / order / course / food eaten with rice or alcoholic drinks

*Note 1: the Chinese term refers to any wild plant in general which may or may not be edible, while the Japanese term refers only to vegetables.

*Note 2: two variants of the first character are 埜 and 埖

汚染/汚

November 15, 2011

Japanese Romaji: osen

Japanese Meaning: pollution / contamination

Parts:

o(kitana, kega, yogo) - dirty / pollute / disgrace / defile

sen(shi, ji, zen, so, zo, some) - color / dye / paint / print / dyeing / printing / stain

Chinese Pinyin: wūrǎn

Chinese Meaning: pollution / contamination

Parts:

wū - dirty / filthy / foul / impure / polluted / corrupt / to smear / to defile / dirt / filth

rǎn - to dye / tint / color / be contagious / to catch (a disease) / contract (a disease, etc.) / infect / to acquire (bad habits, etc.) / to contaminate / pollute / to soil

信号/號

November 16, 2011

Japanese Romaji: shingou

Japanese Meaning: traffic lights / signal / semaphore

Parts:

shin - honesty / fidelity / trust / truth / reliance / faith / (religious) faith / religious / counter for received messages

gou - number / edition / make / model / issue / item / call / part of that group / name / pseudonym / title / nickname / pen-name / sobriquet

Chinese Pinyin: xìn hào

Chinese Meaning: signal / semaphore

Parts:

xìn - honest / truthful / faithful / confidence / to trust / to believe / faith / (religious) faith / religious / letter / mail / news / at will / at random / carefree / aimless

hào(háo) - ordinal number / number (for identification or classification) / day of a month / mark / sign / symbol / business establishment / store / shop / size / ship suffix / horn (wind instrument) / bugle call / orders / command / call / assumed name / nickname / designation / title / to take a pulse / roar / cry

*Note 1: the Japanese term is most commonly used for traffic lights while the Chinese term is more general.

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

救助

November 17, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kyuujo

Japanese Meaning: relief / aid / rescue

Parts:

kyuu(suku, ku, gu) - help / save / rescue / salvation / reclaim

jo(suke, tasu) - help / rescue / assist / assistance / assistant

Chinese Pinyin: jiùzhù

Chinese Meaning: aid / to help somebody in trouble / assistance

Parts:

jiù - to save / to rescue / salvage / to help / to assist / to aid / to relieve

zhù - to help / to assist / to aid / assistance

*Note: a variant of the first character is 掙

意見

November 18, 2011

Japanese Romaji: iken

Japanese Meaning: opinion / view / comment / advice / suggestion

Parts:

i - feelings / thoughts / care / desire / heart / idea / meaning / liking / mind / thought / taste

ken(mi, mami) - look at / looking / viewing / see / visible / chances / idea / hopes / opinion / view (of life, etc.) / outlook

Chinese Pinyin: yìjiàn

Chinese Meaning: opinion / viewpoint / view / idea / suggestion / proposal / objection / complaint

Parts:

yì - idea / meaning / thought / to think / mind / heart / soul / conscience / sentiments / opinion / wish / desire / intention / inclination / to expect / expectations / to anticipate / foresee / hint / suggestion / Italy / Italian

jiàn(xiàn) - to see / observe / catch sight of / behold / perceive / view / refer to / vide / opinion / idea / to meet / call on / visit / to appear (to be something) / to seem / show evidence of / to interview / (used before a verb to indicate the passive) / (Cantonese) feel (cold, dizzy, sick, etc.) / show / appear / become visible

*Note: the second character has the variant 現 (which is also a completely separate character).

運送

November 19, 2011

Japanese Romaji: unsou

Japanese Meaning: transport / freight / shipping / conveyance

Parts:

un(hako) - fortune / luck / destiny / fate / carry / transport / to ship / to drive / to manage / to run
(something) / progress / advance / lot

sou(oku) - send / escort

Chinese Pinyin: yùnsòng

Chinese Meaning: to transport / to carry / to convey

Parts:

yùn - fortune / one's luck / fate / to transport / to ship / to move / to revolve / to use / utilize / utilise /
to apply / make use of

sòng - to send / to see somebody off / send off / see someone out / escort / accompany somebody to /
drive or take somebody to / to dispatch / to convey / to deliver / to carry / to give (as a present) / to
present (with) / lose / waste

*Note: a variant of the second character is 送

三匹

November 20, 2011

Japanese Romaji: sanbiki

Japanese Meaning: three (small animals)

Parts:

san(mi, mitsu) - three / tri-

biki(hiki, piki, hitsu) - counter for small animals / equal / head / counter for rolls of cloth (two han in size) / roll of cloth

Chinese Pinyin: sānpǐ

Chinese Meaning: three (horse-like animals)

Parts:

sān - three / third / thrice / several / many / few

pǐ(pī) - counter for horses, mules, horse-like animals, etc. / horsepower / ordinary person / counter for cloth / bolt of cloth / a bolt or roll (of cloth, piece goods, etc.) / mate / one of a pair / be equal to / be a match for

*Note 1: in both Japanese and Chinese, counting things always require the use of a number and a “counter” word suffix. (The technical terms in Chinese are “classifier” or “measure word”). For example, to say “three” of anything, you need to use the character for “three” along with an appropriate second character which varies depending on the thing being counted.

*Note 2: in Japanese, 匹 is used to count small animals (dogs, cats, fish, insects, lizards, etc.); 羽 (wa) is used for birds and rabbits; 頭 (tou) is used for large animals (horses, cattle, elephants, etc.). In Chinese, 匹 is only used to count horses or animals that look like horses (mules, ponies, etc.). 隻 (zhī) is used for most other animals, 條(tiáo) is used for long animals (snakes, fish, etc.), and 頭 (tóu) is used for domesticated animals (pigs, cattle, etc.).

*Note 3: In Japan, the supposed reason why 羽 is used for rabbits as well as birds is because Buddhist monks were not allowed to eat meat from 4-legged animals, but found rabbit meat to be delicious, so they classified them as birds (which are 2-legged). Their explanation was that rabbit ears were unusable wings and they only touch the ground with two feet while moving. Also, the word for “rabbit” (usagi) is a pun on the words for “cormorant” (u) and “heron” (sagi), two types of birds.

*Note 4: a variant of the first character is 三 A variant of the second character is 疋

雨林

November 21, 2011

Japanese Romaji: urin

Japanese Meaning: rainforest

Parts:

u(ama, ame, same, gure) - rain

rin(hayashi) - forest / woods / grove / copse / thicket

*Note 1: on Japanese vowel pronunciation:

‘a’ like in ‘ah’ and ‘ha’

‘i’ like in ‘Wii’ and ‘be’

‘u’ like in ‘June’ and ‘food’

‘e’ like in ‘ray’ and ‘say’

‘o’ like in ‘row’ and ‘doe’

They also don’t vary like in English.

*Note 2: 梅雨 (Japanese rainy season) is read as “tsuyu” or “dzuyu”.

Chinese Pinyin: yǔlín

Chinese Meaning: rainforest

Parts:

yǔ(yù) - rain / rainy / to rain / to fall (of snow, rain, etc.) / to precipitate / to wet

lín - forest / woods / grove / copse / thicket / circle (of people) / many / numerous / a great body of (capable persons, etc.) / a collection (of similar things; books, works, etc.)

*Note 3: a variant of the first character is 沝

睡眠

November 22, 2011

Japanese Romaji: suimin

Japanese Meaning: sleep

Parts:

sui(nemu) - sleep / drowsy / die

min(nemu) - sleep / sleepy / die

Chinese Pinyin: shuìmián

Chinese Meaning: sleep / slumber

Parts:

shuì - sleep / slumber / doze

mián - sleep / close eyes / hibernate / hibernation

物質

November 23, 2011

Japanese Romaji: busshitsu

Japanese Meaning: material / substance

Parts:

butsu(mono, mon, motsu) - thing / object / matter / the natural thing / a frequently done thing / used to express emotional involvement / used in giving a reason / stolen goods / loot / spoils / (slang) stock / (slang) products

shitsu(tada, tachi, shichi, chi) - quality / substance / matter / content / temperament / nature (of person) / natural appearance / characteristic / confirm / collateral / pledge / mortgage / pawned article

Chinese Pinyin: wùzhì / wùzhí

Chinese Meaning: material / substance / matter / materialistic

Parts:

wù - thing / object / matter / substance / creature / being / content / stuff / the physical world / nature / other people / abbreviation for physics (物理 wùlǐ)

zhì(zhí) - quality / substance / matter / material / texture / elements / character / nature / temperament / disposition / simple / plain / to pawn / pledge / hostage / to question / confront

*Note: 2 variants of the second character are 質 and 質

講演

November 24, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kouen

Japanese Meaning: lecture / an address / speech

Parts:

kou - lecture / a reading / association / club / (Buddhist) lecture meeting / religious association / mutual assistance association (i.e. for financial assistance)

en - act / performance / play / render / stage

Chinese Pinyin: jiǎngyǎn

Chinese Meaning: to present a lecture / to speak publicly / to give a speech / to give a talk

Parts:

jiǎng - to speak / to say / to explain / discuss / to talk / to lecture / speech / lecture / to negotiate / to emphasize / to be particular about / as far as something is concerned

yǎn - to act / to play / to perform / be cast as / to put on / to exercise / to practice / practise / to drill / to develop / to evolve / resolve into / expound / deduce / to elaborate

普通

November 25, 2011

Japanese Romaji: futsuu

Japanese Meaning: general / generally / ordinary / usual / usually / normally / common / nothing special / (abbreviation) train that stops at every station

Parts:

fu(amine) - generally / widely / universal / Prussia

tsuu(kayo, too, doo, tsu) - avenue / commute / pass through / traffic / connoisseur / authority / expert / counter for letters, notes, documents, etc.

Chinese Pinyin: pǔtōng

Chinese Meaning: general / ordinary / common / average

Parts:

pǔ - general / universal / popular / widespread / everywhere / common / all

tōng(tòng) - to go through / pass through / unobstructed / smooth / general / common / whole / throughout / to know well / understand / (suffix) expert / to connect / to communicate / notify / reach / well-constructed / logical / coherent / open up / to clear out / unblock / counter for letters, telegrams, phone calls, etc. / counter for sections of music playing / counter for bouts of unpleasant language / counter for an activity, taken in its entirety (tirade of abuse, stint of music playing, bout of drinking, etc.)

*Note 1: 普通話 (pǔtōng huà, literally meaning "ordinary speech") is used in China to refer to the Mandarin language. 國語 (guóyǔ) is used in Taiwan.

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 普

貴重

November 26, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kichou

Japanese Meaning: precious / valuable

Parts:

ki(tatto, touto) - precious / prize / value / honor / esteem / your / honorific / familiar suffix

chou(e, omo, kasa, juu) - heavy / weighty / heap up / pile up / nest of boxes / chief / main / principal / important / greater degree / serious / severe / (suffix) -fold / (suffix) -ply / layer / number of overlaps

*Note 1: a casual way to say “you” is “anata”, which can be written as 貴方 It can also be used to refer to one’s own husband when talking to him.

Chinese Pinyin: guìzhòng

Chinese Meaning: precious / valuable

Parts:

guì - expensive / costly / valuable / high-priced / precious / your (name) / you (honorific) / a polite expression referring to another person / to treasure / value highly / to prize / esteem / treat with respect / noble / high-placed / high-ranking / honorable / distinguished

zhòng(chóng) - heavy / weighty / weight / strong / much / deep / thick / considerable in amount or value / serious / grave / severe / solemn / composed / discreet / important / prudent / significant / respect / strategic / to attach importance to / lay stress on / difficult / value / emphasize / to double / to repeat / repetition / duplicate / iteration / multiple / again / anew / afresh / once more / layer / overlapping / (prefix) re- / classifier / layer

*Note 2: 貴姓 (guìxìng) is a polite way to ask for someone’s name in Chinese.

街灯/燈

November 27, 2011

Japanese Romaji: gaitou

Japanese Meaning: streetlight

Parts:

gai(machi, kai) - street / district / quarter / town / block / boulevard / neighbourhood / neighborhood / road

tou(akari, dou, tomo, tomoshi, tomoshibi, hi, ho, akashi) - light / lamp / light (as a religious offering) / torch / counter for electric lights / baiting deer with a lighted torch

Chinese Pinyin: jiēdēng

Chinese Meaning: streetlight / streetlamp

Parts:

jiē - street / road / thoroughfare

dēng - light / lamp / lantern / burner / tube / valve

*Note: both versions of the second character can be used in Japanese and Chinese. The left version is more common in Japanese and used in simplified Chinese. The right version is used in traditional Chinese and in some Japanese words.

消防

November 28, 2011

Japanese Romaji: shoubou

Japanese Meaning: fire-fighting / firefighting / (abbreviation) fire department / fire station / firehouse

Parts:

shou(ki, ke) - extinguish / turn off / blow out / neutralize / cancel

bou(fuse) - defend / protect / resist / ward off

Chinese Pinyin: xiāofáng

Chinese Meaning: fire-fighting / firefighting / fire control

Parts:

xiāo - to disappear / to vanish / to eliminate / extinguish / alleviate / allay / disperse / quench / remove /
die out / melt away / to spend (time) / have to / need / take

fáng - to protect / to guard (against) / to defend / to prevent / embankment

警察

November 29, 2011

Japanese Romaji: keisatsu

Japanese Meaning: police

Parts:

kei(imashi, kyou) - admonish / commandment

satsu - judge / guess / presume / surmise / understand / (colloquial) police

Chinese Pinyin: jǐngchá

Chinese Meaning: police / policeman / policewoman / police officer

Parts:

jǐng - to alert / to warn / alarm / guard / watch / keep watch / the police / quick / alert / agile

chá - to examine / to inquire / to observe / to inspect / to investigate / to look into / to survey / to study / scrutinize / scrutinise / notice / obvious / clearly evident

*Note 1: the Chinese term refers to police officers outside of China. The equivalent term for those inside China is 公安 (gōng'ān, literally "public security").

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 警

損害

November 30, 2011

Japanese Romaji: songai

Japanese Meaning: damage / injury / loss

Parts:

son(soko) - loss / disadvantage / damage / hurt / injure

gai - injury / harm / damage / evil influence

Chinese Pinyin: sǔnhài

Chinese Meaning: harm / to damage / to impair / injure / to mar / to sully / to cause damage or destruction

Parts:

sǔn - to lose / to damage / injure / to harm / to hurt / impair / to decrease / diminish / lose / mock / satirize / sarcastic / (colloquial) to speak sarcastically / to deride / caustic / mean

hài - to do harm to / to cause trouble to / injure / harm / harmful / destructive / injurious / destroy / kill / murder / assassinate / evil / bad / disadvantage / calamity / disaster / damage / to damage / pest / scourge / contract (illness) / suffer from / feel (afraid, astonished, etc.)

注射

December 1, 2011

Japanese Romaji: chuusha

Japanese Meaning: injection

Parts:

chuu(sa, soso, tsu) - annotation / explanatory note / comment / notes / concentrate on / flow into / irrigate / pour / shed (tears)

sha(i, u, sa, za, shi) - archery / shoot / mapping / onto / shine onto / (math) map, morphism, arrow

Chinese Pinyin: zhùshè

Chinese Meaning: injection / to inject

Parts:

zhù - to inject / to pour into / to fill / pour (liquid) / to concentrate / to pay attention / to focus / to direct / engross / preoccupation / stake (gambling) / counter for sums of money

shè - to shoot / to launch / to fire / to discharge / eject / to spout / issue forth / emit / give forth / send out (light, heat, etc.) / to allude to / refer to / insinuate / radio- (chemistry) / (archaic) archery

*Note 1: the first character is also a variant and the simplified form of a different Chinese character 註 (zhù - to register / to annotate / note / comment).

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 𡗗

費用

December 2, 2011

Japanese Romaji: hiyou

Japanese Meaning: cost / expense

Parts:

hi(tsui, pi) - cost / expense / fee / consume / spend / waste

you(mochi) - use / utilize / utilise / service / duty / employ / business / task / call of nature / excretion

Chinese Pinyin: fèiyòng

Chinese Meaning: cost / expense / expenditure / fee / charge

Parts:

fèi - to cost / to spend / consume / use / expend / expenses / expenditures / fees / dues / charges /
wasteful / waste / use more than needed / consuming too much / expending too much

yòng(yong) - to use / to employ / to apply / to operate / use / usefulness / exert / effect / expense /
finance / outlay / to have to / need / to eat or drink / hence / therefore

市民

December 3, 2011

Japanese Romaji: shimin

Japanese Meaning: citizen / townspeople

Parts:

shi(ichi) - city / town / market / fair

min(tami) - nation / people / subjects

Chinese Pinyin: shímín

Chinese Meaning: citizen / townspeople / city resident / townsman / townswoman

Parts:

shì - city / town / market / marketplace / a fair / place for bartering goods / trade / buy / sell

mín - the people / nationality / citizen / subjects / the populace / the public / civilians

奇数/數

December 4, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kisuu

Japanese Meaning: odd number

Parts:

ki(ku) - strange / strangeness / unconventional / curiosity

suu(kazu, kazo, su, shiba, shibashiba) - number / amount / several / a number of / numeral / figures / strength / destiny / fate / law / often / again and again / frequently

Chinese Pinyin: jīshù / qíshù

Chinese Meaning: odd number

Parts:

jī(qí) - strange / odd / weird / unusual / uncanny / occult / rare / queer / wonderful / fantastic / remarkable / surprisingly / unusually / unexpected / unpredictable / surprise / astonish / feel strange about / wonder / very / extremely / extraordinarily / odd (number) / fractional amount / remainder

shù(shǔ, shuò) - to count / to enumerate / to list / to criticize (i.e. enumerate shortcomings) / be reckoned as / be counted as / number / scold / rebuke / figure / digit / several / a few / some / count / fate / destiny / rule of nature / frequently / repeatedly

*Note 1: 單數 (dānshù) also means odd number in Chinese.

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 奇

*Note 3: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

表面

December 5, 2011

Japanese Romaji: hyoumen

Japanese Meaning: surface / outside / face / appearance

Parts:

hyou(ara, arawa, omote, uwa) - surface / face (i.e. visible side of an object) / front (of a building, etc.) / main entrance of a house / front door / obverse side of a coin ("heads") / outer clothing / outside / exterior / appearance / façade / public / official / outside a house / outdoors / street in front of a house / front room / living room / first half (of an inning) / top (of an inning) / cover (attached to a surface, for tatami mats, etc.) / (computer) foreground / chart / list / table (listing information) / diagram
men(omo, omote, tsura, dzura) - face / features / mug (face) / surface / mask (especially in noh or kyogen) / face guard / (in kendo) striking the head / page / aspect / facet / side / chamfer / counter for broad, flat objects (mirrors, walls, etc.) or levels or stages (video games, etc.) / looking like a ... / acting as if a

*Note 1: In Japanese, 面皰 (pimple) can be read as "nikibi"

Chinese Pinyin: biǎomiàn

Chinese Meaning: surface / outside / face / external appearance

Parts:

biǎo - exterior surface / outside / external / apparent / appearance / exteriors / superficial / to show (one's opinion) / to express / manifest / announce / to display / a model / a table (listing information) / a chart / schedule / a form / list / a meter (measuring something) / a gauge / a watch / family relationship via females / relatives on the side of one's mother's sisters or brothers / relatives on the side of one's father's sisters / report to the emperor
miàn - face of a person / face / side / surface / plane (surface) / dimension / side / direction / aspect / top / extent / scale / range / scope / to face / confront / look / face-to-face / in or to one's face / personally / directly / indicate something flat / counter for flat surfaces (drums, mirrors, flags, etc.)

*Note 2: in Chinese, the first character is also the simplified form of 錶 (biǎo, wrist or pocket watch). The second character is also the simplified form of 麵 (miàn, noodles).

*Note 3: a variant of the second character is 面

右側

December 6, 2011

Japanese Romaji: migigawa

Japanese Meaning: right side / right hand

Parts:

migi(u, yuu) - right (direction) / right-hand side / afore-mentioned (especially in Japanese vertical writing) / foregoing / forgoing / above statement / right wing (political) / a rightist

gawa(kawa, soba, soku, hata, katawara) - side (of something, or taking someone's side) / edge / lean / oppose / regret / part / (watch) case / near / nearby / close / beside / vicinity / proximity / besides / while (doing) / third person

Chinese Pinyin: yòucè

Chinese Meaning: right side

Parts:

yòu - right (direction) / right-hand side / the Right (politics) / right-wing / west / assist / aid / emphasize

cè(zhāi) - the side / sideways / sidelong / to incline towards / incline to one side / to lean / slant /

inclined / lateral / tilt / slope / lean on one side

四枚

December 7, 2011

Japanese Romaji: yonmai

Japanese Meaning: four (thin, flat objects)

Parts:

yon(yo, yotsu, shi) - four / fourth

mai(bai) - sheet of ... / counter for flat thin objects or sheets (sheets of paper, photographs, plates, articles of clothing, etc.)

Chinese Pinyin: sìméi

Chinese Meaning: four (of the types of objects listed below)

Parts:

sì - four / fourth / all around

méi - counter for coins, rings, badges, pearls, sporting medals, pins, bombs, grenades, missiles, rockets, satellites, etc. / stalk of shrub / trunk of tree / whip / (archaism) wooden peg, used as a gag for marching soldiers (old)

*Note: a variant of the first character is 𠄎

歌声/聲

December 8, 2011

Japanese Romaji: utagoe

Japanese Meaning: singing voice

Parts:

uta(ka) - song / sing / modern poetry / classical Japanese poetry

goe(koe, kowa, shou, sei) - voice

Chinese Pinyin: gēshēng

Chinese Meaning: singing voice / the sound of singing / (figurative) original voice of a poet

Parts:

gē - song / to sing / lyrics / chant / praise / poems with rhythms and rhymes suitable for use as lyrics in songs

shēng - sound / voice / tone / noise / music / language / tongue / reputation / fame / make known / counter for sounds

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 謳

舞台/臺

December 9, 2011

Japanese Romaji: butai

Japanese Meaning: stage (theatre / theater) / scene or setting (of novel, play, etc.)

Parts:

bu(mai, ma) - dancing / dance / flit / circle / wheel

tai(utena, dai) - a stand / rack / table / bed / support / counter for belts / counter for machines, vehicles / level (e.g. price level) / range (e.g. after physical units) / period (of time) / tower / pedestal / calyx

Chinese Pinyin: wǔtái

Chinese Meaning: stage (theatre / theater / political) / arena / (idiom) in the limelight

Parts:

wǔ - to dance / posture / prance / to wield / to brandish / to wave / play with / engage in

tái - platform / stage / terrace / stand / elevated platform / tower / lookout / observatory / a title of respect / Taiwan (abbreviation)

*Note 1: In Chinese, the simpler version of the second character is also the simplified form of these three characters (the first one can be used in the meaning of today's word):

臺: (tái) - platform / stage / terrace / stand / elevated platform / tower / lookout / observatory / a title of respect / support / desk / station / broadcasting station / counter for vehicles or machines / Taiwan (abbreviation)

檯: (tái) - desk / table / platform

颱: (tái) - typhoon

*Note 2: another variant of the second character is 埕

交換

December 10, 2011

Japanese Romaji: koukan

Japanese Meaning: exchange / swap / interchange / switching / reciprocity / barter / substitution / replacement / give-and-take / clearing (of checks / cheques) / commutation (math)

Parts:

kou(ka, ma, maji) - association / mingle / mixing / coming and going

kan(ka) - change / convert / renew / replace / period / interchange

Chinese Pinyin: jiāohuàn

Chinese Meaning: to exchange / to swap / to switch (telecom) / commutative (math) / to commute

Parts:

jiāo - to hand over / to hand in / submit / transfer / to deliver / to pay (money) / to turn over / mix / to intersect (lines) / to cross / exchange / communicate / to make friends / friendship / be on good terms with / come into contact with / meet / come close to / join / alternate / engage in / simultaneously / each other / unite in sexual intercourse

huàn - to change / to exchange / to substitute / alter

赤道

December 11, 2011

Japanese Romaji: sekidou

Japanese Meaning: equator

Parts:

seki(aka, shaku) - red / crimson / scarlet / red-containing colour (e.g. brown, pink, orange) / complete / total / perfect / obvious / central / important / naked / (abbreviation) red light / (abbreviation) red ink (i.e. in finance or proof-reading) / (in) the red / (colloquialism) Red (i.e. communist)

dou(michi, tou) - road / street / way / path / course / district / route / lane / alley / road-way / a pass for local traffic / journey / distance / ways (e.g. a long ways) / the way (of proper conduct, etc.) / one's way / morals / teachings (especially Confucian or Buddhist) / dogma / field (of medicine, etc.) / subject / method / means / a way of doing something / Taoism / modern administrative region of Japan (Hokkaido) / historical administrative region of Japan (Tokaido, Tosando, etc.) / province (Tang-era administrative region of China) / province (modern administrative region of Korea)

Chinese Pinyin: chídào

Chinese Meaning: equator

Parts:

chì - red / scarlet / crimson / bare / naked / desolate / sincere / loyal / pure / single-hearted / revolutionary / communism / communist (Red) / (Cantonese) aching, painful, hurtful / (Cantonese) icy, freezing, biting

dào - road / way / direction / path / street / place / truth / morality / reason / skill / method / principle / theory / doctrine / art / craft / to say / to speak / to talk / think / suppose / govern / lead / province (of Korea or Japan) / (administrative district in old China) / counter for long thin things (rivers, roads, cracks, rainbows, etc.), barriers (walls, doors, etc.), questions (in an exam, etc.), commands, proclamation, courses in a meal, steps in a process / Tao or Dao (of Taoism or Daoism)

*Note: 3 variants of the second character are 導 衛 衛

抽象

December 12, 2011

Japanese Romaji: chuushou

Japanese Meaning: abstract

Parts:

chuu(hi) - pull / pluck / extract / excel

shou(katado, zou) - elephant / phenomenon / image / shape / pattern after / imitate / sign (of the times)

Chinese Pinyin: chōuxiàng

Chinese Meaning: abstract / abstraction

Parts:

chōu - to draw out / to pull out from in between / to open / to remove part of the whole / to rid / take away / extraction / (of certain plants) to sprout or bud / put forth shoots / to whip / to thrash / to lash / smoke (cigarettes, etc.) / to shrink

xiàng - elephant / shape / form / figure / portrait / outward appearance of anything (weather, heavenly bodies, etc.) / image / snapshot / phenomenon / to imitate / likeness / ivory

上映

December 13, 2011

Japanese Romaji: jouei

Japanese Meaning: to screen a movie or film / showing

Parts:

jou(a, ue, uwa, kami, nobo, shan, shou) - above / up / upper / upward / outer / over / summit / top / surface / in / on / before / previous / superiority / elder (e.g. sibling) / one's superior / one's elder / on top of that / besides / what's more / upon (further inspection, etc.) / based on (and occurring after) / matters concerning... / as concerns... / since (for that reason) / suffix indicating higher social standing / (archaism) place of one's superior (i.e. the throne) / (archaism) emperor / sovereign / shogun / daimyo / (archaism) noblewoman (especially the wife of a nobleman) / upper reaches (of a river) / upper stream / upper part / upper half (of body) / long ago / beginning / the start / first (of multiple parts) / person of high rank (e.g. emperor) / government / governmental / imperial / imperial court / imperial capital (i.e. Kyoto) / capital region (i.e. Kansai) / region (or direction of) the imperial palace / head (of a table) / (honorific) wife / mistress (of a restaurant) / from the standpoint of / as a matter of (fact) / in the field of / being a type of / aboard (a ship or vehicle) / on top of / first volume (e.g. book) / superior quality / best / high class / going up / presenting / showing / ana- (medical, biology)

ei(utsu, ha, bae) - projection / reflect / reflection

*Note 1: the verb 逆上せる (“to feel dizzy”, “to have blood rush to one’s head”, or “to become conceited (it’s gone to his/her head)”) is read as “noboseru”; the reading of 上手い (which has several meanings such as “skillful”, “fortunate”, “delicious”, etc.) is “umai”. (Not to be confused with 上手 (skillful), which is usually read as “jouzu”).

Chinese Pinyin: shàngyìng

Chinese Meaning: to screen a movie or film / to show

Parts:

shàng(shǎng) - above / up / upward / to (a higher level) / on top / summit / on / in / regarding / over / upon / upper / higher / high place / previous / last / preceding / former / prior / first (of multiple parts) / before / to climb / to get onto / ascend / mount / board / to go up / send up / to attend (class or university) / go to / leave for (a place) / to go to court / to present / superior / senior / highest / best / better / emperor / affix / fit / install / apply / put on / place in position / be as many as / be up to / reach / appear on stage / enter the field / to put on record / be published / screw / tighten / twist / to wind / wind up / (verb particle indicating direction or achievement) / (phonetics) rising tone or fall-rising tone / (mahjong) chow / call to create a run/sequence

yìng - project (slides) / show (film) / reflect (light) / mirror / shine / illuminate / light up

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 上. A variant of the second character is 映

零下

December 14, 2011

Japanese Romaji: reika

Japanese Meaning: below zero / sub-zero

Parts:

rei(kobo, zero) - zero / nought / cipher / nothing / overflow / spill

ka(o, kuda, sa, shita, shimo, moto, ge, he) - down / below / under / bottom / underneath / beneath / low / descend / just after / right after / inferiority / one's inferior / one's junior / younger (e.g. of siblings) / trade-in / give / preliminary / preparatory / lowness (of degree, value, etc.) / second volume (of two) / third volume (of three) / under (being in said condition or environment) / under (influence or guidance) / lower reaches (of a river) / lower part / lower half (of the body, especially the privates) / base / faeces / feces / urine / menses / dirty (e.g. dirty jokes) / end / far from the imperial palace (i.e. far from Kyoto, esp. of western Japan)

Chinese Pinyin: língxià

Chinese Meaning: below zero

Parts:

líng - zero / nil / nought / zero sign / fractional / fragment / fragmentary / odd (of numbers) / fraction / (math) remainder (after division) / (placed between two numbers to indicate a smaller quantity followed by a larger one) / extra / to wither and fall / to wither / flow down / light rain / drizzle

xià - down / downwards / below / lower / under / underneath / beneath / less than / on / into / off / inferior / low / of the bottom part / later / next (week, etc.) / second (of two parts) / upcoming / of a later time / with / descend / to decline / fall down / to go down / come down to / disembark / to get out of / leave off / to bring down / to put down / set down / lower into / apply / put forth / to put in / to arrive at (a decision, conclusion etc.) / lay / to issue (something) / to deliver / to send / to give / formulate / work something out / to begin / to finish / (animal) to give birth / to lay (eggs) / (verb particle indicating space or capacity) / (used after a verb to express height) / (used after a verb to express the separation of an object) / (used after a verb to express the end of an action) / (noun suffix indicating a certain time or season) / (verb measure indicating repetition or duration) / counter to show the frequency of an action

*Note 1: although this word literally means “below zero”, it is only used to describe temperatures “below zero degrees Celsius”

*Note 2: instead of the first character, some people prefer to write “〇” to mean “zero”.

*Note 3: a variant of the second character is 下

發明/發

December 15, 2011

Japanese Romaji: hatsumei

Japanese Meaning: invention / intelligent / clever

Parts:

hatsu(ta, patsu, hotsu) - departure / departing / beginning / start from / set off / disclose / issued by (e.g. document) / sending / sent / publish / discharge / emit / occur / (abbreviation) engine / counter for gunshots, bullets, aerial fireworks, bursts of gas, bombs, blows (punches), etc.

mei(a, aka, aki, myou, min) - bright / light / brightness / clarity / acumen / power of vision

*Note 1: 明日 (tomorrow) can have the reading of “ashita” or “asu”

Chinese Pinyin: fāmíng

Chinese Meaning: invention / to invent

Parts:

fā - to send out / to show (one's feelings) / to issue / publish / dispatch / emit / to develop / shoot / launch / begin / start / initiate / originate / reveal / disclose / uncover / become / come to be / utter / express / speak / set off / set out / illuminate / help out / counter for gunshots (rounds)

míng - bright / light / brilliant / clear (meaning) / to understand / understandable / clarify / obvious / evident / next (day or year) / public / open / wise / intelligent / clever / eyesight / seeing faculty / day / daybreak / dawn / to state / show / assert / generic term for a sacrifice to the gods

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 明

空中

December 16, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kuuchuu

Japanese Meaning: sky / air / space

Parts:

kuu(a, uro, kara, su, sora, zora, muna) - sky / the heavens / emptiness / empty / vacant / vacuum / void / blank / hollow / cavity / hole / empty air / (abbreviation) air force / fruitlessness / meaninglessness / ineffectual / false / void (one of the five elements) / Śūnyatā (emptiness, the lack of an immutable intrinsic nature within any phenomenon)

chuu(ata, uchi, djuu, juu, naka) - inside / in / among / amongst / between / within / center / centre / middle / second volume of a three volume set / during / while (doing something) / being in the process of doing / in the course of / we (referring to one's in-group, i.e. company, etc.) / our / my spouse / (archaism) imperial palace grounds / (archaism) emperor / (Kansai dialect) I (primarily used by women and children), me / through / throughout / in the course of / all over or throughout (e.g. a place) / medium / average / mean / middle / moderation / (abbreviation) middle school / (abbreviation) China / out of (e.g. 3 out of 4) / under (construction, etc.)

Chinese Pinyin: kōngzhōng

Chinese Meaning: in the sky / in the air / aerial

Parts:

kōng(kòng) - empty / hollow / bare / deserted / vacant / vacancy / unoccupied / void / space / blank (space) / leave blank or vacant / to empty / exhaust / reduce to extremity / fictitious / unreal / impractical / in vain / vain and useless (efforts, etc.) / ineffective / fruitless / air / sky / leisure / free time / spare time / (Buddhism) Śūnyatā / emptiness / vacuity / awareness / openness / thusness

zhōng(zhòng) - within / among / in / inside / between / middle (of time or place) / center / centre / central / halfway / medium-grade / medium / average / mediocre / while (doing something) / during / in the midst of / in the process of / China / Chinese / to hit (target) / attain / to be hit by / to suffer / be touched by (weather, poison, etc.) / be affected by / fall into / to win (prize, lottery, etc.) / to accomplish / pass examination / fit taste / liking / be agreeable to / fit exactly

分類/類

December 17, 2011

Japanese Romaji: bunrui

Japanese Meaning: classification / categorization / sorting

Parts:

bun(wa, fun, pun, bu) - minute / one-tenth / one percent (one-tenth of a wari) / chances / part / segment / a share / ration / rate / degree / one's lot / one's status / relation / duty / kind / lot / in proportion to / just as much as / thickness / advantageous circumstances / know / understand / 3 mm (one-tenth of a sun) / 2.4 mm (one-tenth of a mon, a traditional unit used to measure shoe sizes) / 0.375 grams (one-tenth of a monme) / 0.1 degree (one-tenth of a do, used to measure body temperature on any temperature scale) / one-quarter of a ryou (obsolete unit of currency)
rui(tagu) - a kind / sort / class / variety / family / genus

Chinese Pinyin: fēnlèi

Chinese Meaning: classification / categorization / sorting / assortment

Parts:

fēn(fèn) - minute / one-tenth / one percent / one cent / to divide / to separate / to allocate / distribute / assign / allot / to distinguish (between good and bad) / differentiate / tell apart / part / subdivision / fraction / percentage / a point (in sports or games) / mark / score / share / ingredient / component / located separately / branch / one point / unit of length (centimeter), area, weight, money (one cent), interest rate, time (one minute), etc. / unit to express fractions and percentages / unit of length equivalent to 0.33 cm / 0.01 yuan (unit of money)
lèi - a kind / type / class / group / category / species / race / similar / alike / good / virtue / to resemble / biased / prejudiced / a kind of wildcat

*Note: a Chinese variant of the first character is 份

泥土

December 18, 2011

Japanese Romaji: deido

Japanese Meaning: mud

Parts:

dei(doro, nazu) - mud / mire / adhere to / be attached to

do(tsuchi, to) - earth / soil / mud / dirt / the earth (historically, especially as opposed to the heavens) / the ground / the land / low-quality torinoko-gami (containing mud) / (period of) refraining from construction in the direction of the god of the earth (in On'youdou) / Saturday / Turkey (abbreviation)

Chinese Pinyin: nítǔ

Chinese Meaning: mud / earth / soil / clay

Parts:

ní(nì) - mud / mire / earth / soil / clay / plaster / paste / pulp / mashed vegetable or fruit / cover with plaster / putty / bigoted / obstinate / stubborn / restrained

tǔ - earth / soil / dirt / ground / dust / clay / items made of earth / land / territory / domain / local / native / indigenous / unsophisticated / unrefined / unenlightened / peasant / rustic / countrified / crude opium / Turkey (abbreviation) / one of the eight ancient musical instruments 八音 / Tu (ethnic group)

*Note: a variant of the first character is 坭

校舎/舎

December 19, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kousha

Japanese Meaning: school building / school house

Parts:

kou(kyou, gyō) - school / exam / correction / printing / proof (of a book, document, etc.) / counter for proofs

sha(ja, naka, ya) - hut / house / cottage / inn / mansion / dwelling / dwell / reside

Chinese Pinyin: xiàoshè

Chinese Meaning: school building

Parts:

xiào(jiào) - school / military field officer / to proofread / to check / to compare

shè - house / dwelling / dwell / reside / residence / inn / halt / stop / rest / a self-depreciatory possessive pronoun for the first person singular in formal speech

*Note: the second character in Chinese is also the simplified form of 捨 (shě - to abandon / to give up / to give alms)

今晚/晚

December 20, 2011

Japanese Romaji: konban

Japanese Meaning: tonight / this evening

Parts:

kon(ima, kin) - now / the present time / just now / soon / immediately / (one) more / the current ... / this ... / today's ...

ban(oso) - night / nightfall / evening / counter for nights or evenings

*Note 1: the first character also has other special readings in common Japanese phrases: 今日(kyou - today) / 今朝(kesa - this morning) / 今年(kotoshi - this year)

*Note 2: some common Japanese greetings can be written with these characters (but are usually written in hiragana): 今日は (konnichiwa - hello) / 今晚は(konbanwa - good evening)

Chinese Pinyin: jīnwǎn

Chinese Meaning: tonight / this evening

Parts:

jīn - now / present / today / modern / recent / current / currently / presently / nowadays / this / immediately / right away

wǎn - night / evening / sunset / late / drawing toward the end / younger / junior

*Note 3: this evening the moon will be somewhere in between its third quarter phase and its new moon phase.

越冬

December 21, 2011

Japanese Romaji: ettou

Japanese Meaning: hibernation / passing the winter

Parts:

etsu(ko, go, otsu) - cross over / move to / exceed / surpass / Vietnam (abbreviation)

tou(fuyu) - winter (season)

Chinese Pinyin: yuèdōng

Chinese Meaning: to hibernate / to pass the winter / to overwinter / to go through the winter / to endure the winter

Parts:

yuè - to climb over / jump across / pass through / to exceed / overstep / to surpass / go beyond / transgress / skip / cross over / go across / the more ... the more / even more / plunder / pillage / Vietnam (abbreviation) / generic word for peoples or states of south China or south Asia at different historical periods / state of Yue in the Zhou dynasty / east Zhejiang province

dōng - winter (season)

*Note: the second character in Chinese is also the simplified form of 鼙 (dōng - the sound of beating a drum)

親戚

December 22, 2011

Japanese Romaji: shinseki

Japanese Meaning: relative (i.e. family relation) / relation / kin

Parts:

shin(oya, shita) - intimacy / closeness / friendliness / familiarity / close relative / pro- (e.g. pro-American, pro-Japanese) / parents / parent / mother / father / dealer (in cards) / banker / founder / (pet) owner

seki - relative / grieve

Chinese Pinyin: qīnqi / qīnqī

Chinese Meaning: relative (i.e. family relation) / relations

Parts:

qīn(qīng) - intimate / near to / dear / close to / in person / first-hand / personally / personal / person / self / in favor of / pro- (e.g. pro-American, pro-Chinese) / parent / parents / one's own (flesh and blood) / relative / related / kin / of blood relation / biological / love / marriage / bride / match / to kiss /

parents-in-law of one's offspring

qi(qī) - relative (by marriage) / be related to / grief (borrowed meaning from rarely used 憾) / sorrow / sad / woeful / sorrowful / axe-like ancient weapon

*Note: 2 variants of the second character are 憾 and 感

希望

December 23, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kibou

Japanese Meaning: hope / wish / aspiration

Parts:

ki(koinega, mare, nega, gi, ke) - beg / beseech / hope / pray / request / rare / seldom / few /

phenomenal / dilute (acid) / Greece (abbreviation) / Greek

bou(nozo, mochi, mou) - ambition / aspire to / desire / expect / hope / full moon / 15th day of the lunar month

*Note 1: in Japanese, the second character is used in two words which are very similar in pronunciation but have very different meanings: 絶望 (zetsubou - despair / hopelessness), 切望 (setsubou - longing for / earnest desire / desperate desire / hope / yearning / hankering)

Chinese Pinyin: xīwàng

Chinese Meaning: hope / to hope / to wish for / to desire

Parts:

xī - to hope / expect / strive for / wish / to admire / yearn for / seek / rare / infrequent / Greece (abbreviation)

wàng - to hope / to expect / await / to visit / view / watch / to look forward to / to gaze at (into the distance) / look at / to look towards / glance / towards / reputation / prestige / call on / pay a visit / full moon / 15th day of a lunar month

*Note 2: the first character is a variant of 稀 (which is also a separate character). A variant of the second character is 望

*Note 3: the second character can be written in either way in both languages. There are also more with slight variations, but I am only including these two.

終了

December 24, 2011

Japanese Romaji: shuuryou

Japanese Meaning: end / close / termination / completion

Parts:

shuu(o, owa, tsui, juu) - end / finish

ryou(o, shima) - complete / finish

Chinese Pinyin: zhōngliǎo

Chinese Meaning: to end

Parts:

zhōng - end / finish / finally / in the end / conclusion / at last / whole / all / entire

liǎo(le) - to finish / to end / settle / dispose of / concluded / to achieve / to understand / know clearly / entirely / wholly / (particle used to indicate completion of an action) / (modal particle intensifying preceding clause)

*Note: in Chinese, the second character is also the simplified form of a different character 瞭 (liào - (of eyes) bright / clear-sighted / to understand clearly)

誕生

December 25, 2011

Japanese Romaji: tanjou

Japanese Meaning: birth / creation / formation

Parts:

tan - be born / nativity / be arbitrary / lie / declension

jou(i, u, uma, o, ki, na, nama, ha, mu, shou, sei, fu) - life / living / birth / genuine / pure / undiluted / raw / uncooked / rare / fresh / natural / unedited / unprocessed / crude / live (not recorded) / inexperienced / unpolished / green / student / unpasteurized (beer) / draft (beer) / draught beer / partially / somewhat / half- / semi- / impudence / sauciness / (colloquialism) unprotected (i.e. not wearing a condom) / area of thick growth (trees, etc.) / (male term) (humble) I, me, myself

*Note 1: the second character has the most readings out of any other character in Japanese.

Chinese Pinyin: dànrshēng

Chinese Meaning: to be born / to come into being / to emerge

Parts:

dàn - birth / birthday / give birth / to bear children / come into being / be born / brag / boast / to increase / absurd / fantastic

shēng - live / life / living / lifetime / livelihood / alive / lively / to be born / come into being / come into existence / birth / to grow / breed / bear (something) / give birth / produce / beget / create / give rise to / cause / raw / uncooked / unripe / crude / unskilled / stiff / unfamiliar / strange / unknown / unacquainted / save / untamed / barbarian / uncultured / pupil / student / scholar / practitioner / gentleman / creatures / male role in traditional Chinese opera / Mr. / mister

*Note 2: The Japanese expression for “Happy Birthday” is “(o) tanjoubi omedetou (gozaimasu)” (お誕生日おめでとう(ございます)). (Words in brackets are optional depending on how formal you want to be). The expression for “Merry Christmas” is “merii kurisumasu” メリークリスマス.

*Note 3: The Chinese expression for “Happy Birthday” is “shēngrìkuàilè” 生日快樂. The expression for “Merry Christmas” is “shèngdàikuàilè” 聖誕快樂.

購買

December 26, 2011

Japanese Romaji: koubai

Japanese Meaning: purchase / procurement / buying

Parts:

kou(agana) - buy / subscription

bai(ka) - buy

Chinese Pinyin: gòumǎi

Chinese Meaning: to purchase / to buy

Parts:

gòu - to buy / to purchase / hire

mǎi - to buy / to purchase / bribe / persuade / win over

知識

December 27, 2011

Japanese Romaji: chishiki

Japanese Meaning: knowledge / information

Parts:

chi(shi) - know / wisdom

shiki(shi, shiru) - discriminating / know / write

Chinese Pinyin: zhīshi

Chinese Meaning: knowledge / intellectual / intelligence / knowledge-related

Parts:

zhī - to know / to be aware / perceive / comprehend / to understand / feel / recognize / knowledge /
acquaint / be familiar with / befriend / control / operate / to direct / wait on

shi(zhì) - to know / knowledge / recognize / discern / understand / opinion / view / to record / to write a
footnote / remember

*Note 1: the first character can also be replaced by 智 in both languages. In Japanese, the
pronunciation (for this word) stays the same. In Chinese, the pronunciation is “zhì”.

*Note 2: T.O.E. is an acronym for “Theory of Everything”

五味

December 28, 2011

Japanese Romaji: gomi

Japanese Meaning: five flavors (sweet, salty, spicy, sour, bitter) / five tastes / five palates

Parts:

go(itsu) - five / fifth

mi(aji, bi) - flavor / flavour / taste / charm / style / experience / smart / clever / witty / strange / (suffix)
-ness / any degree of being / (sense of) taste / counter for food, drink, medicine, etc.

*Note 1: “gomi” is also a Japanese reading for “garbage / trash / refuse / rubbish”.

Chinese Pinyin: wǔwèi

Chinese Meaning: the five flavors (sweet, salty, spicy, sour, bitter) / all kinds of flavors

Parts:

wǔ - five

wèi - flavor / flavour / taste / smell / odor / odour / delicacy / dainty

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 𠂇

原因

December 29, 2011

Japanese Romaji: gen'in

Japanese Meaning: cause / origin / source

Parts:

gen(hara, bara, wara) - original / primitive / primary / fundamental / raw / field / plain / prairie / meadow / tundra / moor / wilderness / suffixed to words indicating a class of people to create a plural (esp. in impolite contexts)

in(china, yo) - cause / factor / depend on / be limited to / be associated with / hetu (direct cause, especially as opposed to indirect conditions) / the basis of one's argument (in hetuvidya)

Chinese Pinyin: yuányīn

Chinese Meaning: cause / origin / root cause / reason

Parts:

yuán - original / primary / raw / former / level / cause / source / origin / beginning / steppe / vast plain / field / meadow / tundra / prairie / wilderness / graveyard / excuse / pardon

yīn - cause / reason / because (of) / by / in accordance with / according to / on the basis of / in the light of / follow (a practice, convention, etc.)

*Note: a variant of the first character is 原 A variant of the second character is 因

寿司/壽

December 30, 2011

Japanese Romaji: sushi

Japanese Meaning: sushi

Parts:

su(kotobu, kotobuki, kotoho, ju, zu) - longevity / one's natural life / congratulations / felicitation / celebration / greetings

shi(tsukasado, ji) - administer / director / government office / official / to rule (something)

*Note 1: "sushi" can also be written as 鮓 or 鮓

*Note 2: "sushi" uses kanji for sound rather than meaning (known in Japanese as ateji). A similar concept in Chinese is when foreign names are transcribed from English (e.g. Canada becomes 加拿大 [Jiānádà]). These characters mean "to add", "to hold", and "big".

Chinese Pinyin: shòusī

Chinese Meaning: sushi

Parts:

shòu - longevity / long life / lifespan / old age / age / life / birthday (of elderly people)

sī - to take charge of / to manage / control / preside over / officer / (government) department

*Note 3: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

期待

December 31, 2011

Japanese Romaji: kitai

Japanese Meaning: expectation / anticipation / hope

Parts:

ki(go) - date / period / term / time / (geological) age

tai(ma, dai) - wait / depend on

Chinese Pinyin: qīdài

Chinese Meaning: expectation / to await / to look forward to / eager to

Parts:

qī(qí) - date / a period of time / scheduled time / time / term / period / time limit / phase / stage / (used for issue of a periodical, courses of study) / issue / number / session / season / to hope / expect / anticipate

dài(dāi) - to wait / await / to treat / entertain / receive / to deal with / to need / going to (do something) / about to / intending to / stay / delay

*Note 1: See October 12, 2011 for explanation on how the first character is used in Chinese days of the week.

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 暮

祝賀

January 1, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shukuga

Japanese Meaning: celebration / congratulations

Parts:

shuku(iwa, shuu) - congratulate / celebrate / blessing

ga(ka) - congratulations / joy

Chinese Pinyin: zhùhè

Chinese Meaning: congratulations / to congratulate

Parts:

zhù - to express good wishes / to wish (someone happiness) / to pray for happiness or blessings / bless / boon / exalting / congratulate / felicitate / celebrate / a spell / enchantment / ensorcellment / incantation / mantra / chant

hè - to congratulate / celebrate / send present

*Note 1: the Japanese have several ways of saying “Happy New Year”. One of them is “謹賀新年” (kingashinnen). On New Year’s Eve, one can say “良いお年を” (yoi otoshi o). On New Year’s Day, one can say “明けましておめでとう[ございます]” (akemashite omedetou [gozaimasu]). The Chinese say “新年快樂” (xīnniánkuàilè) on the Western calendar’s New Year’s Day.

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 祝

決闘/鬥

January 2, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kettou

Japanese Meaning: duel / shoot-out

Parts:

ketsu(ki, gi) - decision / vote / agree upon / decide / appoint / fix

tou(tataka) - fight / war

Chinese Pinyin: juédòu

Chinese Meaning: to duel / a duel / decisive struggle

Parts:

jué - to decide / to determine / conclude / to judge / to execute (someone) / put someone to death / (of a dam, etc.) to breach, break, or burst / definitely / certainly / sure / certain / definite

dòu - to fight / to struggle / compete / to battle / tussle / combat / to contend / (to) contest / compete against / denounce / to condemn / to censure / to put together / coming together / come close together / incite / make animals fight (as a game)

*Note: the second character also has at least 4 more uncommon variants (闘, 鬪, 鬪, 鬪) and a simplified Chinese version (斗).

飛躍

January 3, 2012

Japanese Romaji: hiyaku

Japanese Meaning: leaping / activity / leapfrog (over a problem) / making a leap (e.g. in logic) / making great strides / making rapid progress / significant leap forward / emerging / becoming active / playing an active part

Parts:

hi(to, pi) - fly / scatter / skip (pages) / rook (shogi)

yaku(odo) - leap / skip / dance

*Note 1: don't confuse with "hyaku" (百), which means "one hundred".

*Note 2: the Japanese verb "tobu" (とぶ) can either mean "to jump" or "to fly" and can be written with kanji as 飛ぶ (to fly) or 跳ぶ (to jump).

Chinese Pinyin: fēiyuè

Chinese Meaning: to leap

Parts:

fēi - to fly / flit / flutter / move swiftly / go quickly / to dart / high / unexpected / accidental / [(Cantonese) cut (hair) / (loanword) fare, ticket]

yuè - to jump / to leap / to skip / frolic / to bound / to spring / to hop

*Note 3: this word can mean either to jump over something or for something to increase/advance exceptionally (e.g. jumping from tree to tree, prices soaring, rapidly developing skills)

釣魚

January 4, 2012

Japanese Romaji: chougyo

Japanese Meaning: fishing / angling

Parts:

chou(tsu, tsuri, dzu, dzuri) - to fish / fishing / angling / catch / catching / allure / ensnare / change (e.g. for a purchase) / small cash

gyo(uo, sakana, zakana) - fish (noun)

Chinese Pinyin: diàoyú

Chinese Meaning: to fish (with line and hook) / fishing / angling / to dupe

Parts:

diào - to fish with a hook and bait / to angle / fishhook / tempt / lure

yú - fish (noun)

凹凸

January 5, 2012

Japanese Romaji: outotsu

Japanese Meaning: unevenness / roughness / ruggedness / bumpy

Parts:

ou(kubo, heko, boko) - concave / hollow / sunken

totsu(deko) - convex / uneven / brow / forehead

*Note: reversing the characters results in the same meaning but the reading of “dekoboko”.

Chinese Pinyin: āotū

Chinese Meaning: bumpy / uneven / slotted and tabbed joint / crenelation

Parts:

āo - concave / indentation / a depression / hollow / a pass / valley

tū - convex / protrude / bulge out / to stick out

背骨

January 6, 2012

Japanese Romaji: sebone

Japanese Meaning: spine / backbone / spinal column

Parts:

se(sei, somu, hai) - back (of the body) / spine / reverse / behind / rear side / the rear of something / the area behind / height / stature / ridge (of a mountain) / defy / disobey / go back on / to rebel
bone(hone, kotsu) - bone / frame / skeleton / remains / outline / core / backbone / sprit / fortitude / laborious / troublesome / difficult / knack / skill / trick / secret / know-how / the ropes / hang

*Note 1: although it is spelt the same way using the Roman alphabet, the Japanese pronunciation of "bone" is "bo-nay".

Chinese Pinyin: bèigǔ

Chinese Meaning: spine

Parts:

bèi(běi) - the back of a body or object / backside / the reverse side / behind / to turn one's back / with the back towards / back on (to) / cast away / give up / betray / go against / violate / act contrary to / to rebel / to hide something from / to learn by heart / to recite from memory / recite by rote / to commit to memory / (Cantonese) out of date / (Cantonese) out of touch / (slang) unlucky / having hard luck / out-of-the-way / remote / hard of hearing / to be burdened / to carry on the back or shoulder / to bear
gǔ - bone / skeleton / frame / framework / (Cantonese) checkpoint, threshold

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 背

内耳/内

January 7, 2012

Japanese Romaji: naiji

Japanese Meaning: inner ear

Parts:

nai(uchi, dai) - inside / within / while / during / inside or within a span of time / among / amongst / between / home / house / we (referring to one's in-group) / our / my / one's own / spouse / (archaism) imperial palace grounds / (archaism) emperor / (Kansai dialect) I (primarily used by women and children), me

ji(mimi) - ear / hearing / edge / crust (of bread) / selvedge / selvage (non-fray machined edge of fabrics)

Chinese Pinyin: nèi'ěr

Chinese Meaning: inner ear / internal ear

Parts:

nèi - inside / inner / interior / internal / within / domestic / heart / mind / internals / one's wife / wife's relatives / imperial palace

ěr - ear / ears / merely / only / contraction of 而已 (that's all / nothing more) / and that is all (classical Chinese) / handle (archaeology)

*Note: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character. The subtle difference between the versions is in the curves at the top of the characters (similar to 人 and 入)

指紋

January 8, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shimon

Japanese Meaning: fingerprint

Parts:

shi(sa, yubi) - finger / toe / digit / indicate / point to / put into / measure (ruler) / play (chess)

mon - family crest / coat of arms / figures

Chinese Pinyin: zhǐwén

Chinese Meaning: fingerprint / the arches, loops and whorls on the fingers

Parts:

zhǐ - finger / toe / to point at or to / to indicate / to direct / to refer to / to mean / to depend on / to count on / (of hair) to stand on end / number of people / intentions / main theme / hope

wén - line / trace / mark / streak / stripe / (finger) prints / wrinkle (face) / vein / pattern / grain (of wood, etc.) / ripples (water) / tattoo

每朝/毎

January 9, 2012

Japanese Romaji: maiasa

Japanese Meaning: every morning

Parts:

mai(goto) - every / each respectively

asa(ashita, chou) - morning / dynasty / reign / period / epoch / era / regime / court / (North) Korea

*Note: “this morning” in Japanese is read as 今朝 (kesa). The “ashita” reading for the second character is also the same reading for 明日, which means “tomorrow”.

Chinese Pinyin: měizhāo

Chinese Meaning: every morning

Parts:

měi - every / each / per

zhāo(cháo) - morning / day / dynasty / reign / government / imperial or royal court / to make a pilgrimage to / facing / towards / (Abbreviation) North Korea

再会/會

January 10, 2012

Japanese Romaji: saikai

Japanese Meaning: another meeting / meeting again / reunion

Parts:

sai(futata, sa) - again / repeated / second time / twice / re- (prefix)

kai(a, e) - meeting / meet / gathering / assembly / party / association / society / club / interview / join

Chinese Pinyin: zàihuì

Chinese Meaning: to meet again / until we meet again / goodbye / see you soon / see you later

Parts:

zài - again / repeated / once more / twice / re- (prefix) / second / another / then (after something, and not until then) / still / further

huì(kuài) - can / be possible / be able to / will / shall / be likely to / be sure to / understand / comprehend / realize / to assemble / to meet together / to gather / to converge / to see / union / a meeting / convention / group / association / an organization / a society / a moment / to balance an account / accountancy / accounting

*Note 1: this word literally means “to meet again” but is often used in farewells to mean something like “we will meet again”.

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

尊敬

January 11, 2012

Japanese Romaji: sonkei

Japanese Meaning: respect / esteem / reverence / honour / honor

Parts:

son(tatto, touto) - exalted / noble / precious / revered / valuable

kei(uyama, kyou) - reverence / respect / honor / awe

Chinese Pinyin: zūnjìng

Chinese Meaning: respect / to revere

Parts:

zūn - to honor / to respect / to revere / venerate / esteem / honorific / superior / senior / noble / of a senior generation / counter for cannons and statues / ancient wine vessel

jìng - to respect / to venerate / to honor / respectfully / revere / esteem / to salute / to offer / to present

*Note: in Japanese, there are two types of polite speech which are used around people such as supervisors, bosses, customers, guests, etc. Honorific language (尊敬語, sonkeigo) is used when talking about superiors or customers. Humble language (謙讓語, kenjougo) is used when referring to oneself and often implies doing something for the benefit of another person. They are collectively known as “respectful language” (敬語, keigo). For example, the plain form of the verb “to do” is する (suru), the honorific form is なさいます (nasaimasu), and the humble form is 致します (itashimasu).

六個

January 12, 2012

Japanese Romaji: rokko

Japanese Meaning: six (general objects)

Parts:

roku(mu, mui, riku) - six

ko(ka) - counter for articles / counter for military units / individual / counter for the ichi-ni-san counting system (usually directly preceding the item being counted) / a noun read using its on-yomi

*Note 1: in Japanese, 十六夜 (16th night of the month) is read as “izayoi”

Chinese Pinyin: liùgè

Chinese Meaning: six (general objects / people)

Parts:

liù - six

gè - counter for objects in general / counter for people / individual / single / piece / unit / this / that / size

*Note 2: “general objects” means anything which doesn’t have an obvious counter word for it. This counter word can also be used if you don’t know what the proper one should be.

*Note 3: 2 variants of the second character are 箇 and 个

稻田/稻

January 13, 2012

Japanese Romaji: inada

Japanese Meaning: paddy field / rice field

Parts:

ina(ine, te, tou) - rice plant

da(ta, den) - rice field / rice paddy

Chinese Pinyin: dàotián

Chinese Meaning: paddy field / rice paddy

Parts:

dào - rice plant / rice (*Oryza sativa*) / rice growing in field / paddy

tián - field / farm / farmland / arable land / agricultural land / cultivated land / rice field / hunt game

彈藥/彈藥

January 14, 2012

Japanese Romaji: dan'yaku

Japanese Meaning: ammunition

Parts:

dan(tama, dama, haji, hazu, hi, bi, tan) - bullet / ball / sphere / globe / orb / bead (of sweat, etc.) / drop / droplet / pile (of noodles, etc.) / (light) bulb / lens (of glasses, etc.) / bead (of an abacus) / (slang) (abbreviation) ball (i.e. a testicle) / egg / gem / jewel (especially spherical, sometimes used figuratively) / pearl / female entertainer (e.g. a geisha) / (derogatory) person (when commenting on their nature) / character / item, funds, or person used as part of a plot / coin / flip / snap / twang / precious / beautiful / excellent / counter for parts (of a story, etc.)

yaku(kusuri) - medicine / pharmaceuticals / drugs / enamel / treatment / anti- / benefit / efficacious chemical (gunpowder, pesticide, etc.) / (pottery) glaze / small bribe / (slang) dope, narcotics

Chinese Pinyin: dànyào

Chinese Meaning: ammunition

Parts:

dàn(tán) - bullet / shot / shell / pellet / bomb / ball / crossball / to pluck (a string) / to play (a string instrument) / to strum / to spring / to leap / to shoot (with a catapult, etc.) / shoot off / (of cotton) to fluff or tease / to flick / to flip / to accuse / to impeach / to suppress / elastic (of materials) / elasticity / stretch / to rebound / bounce

yào - medicine / pharmaceuticals / drugs / medicinal / cure / remedy / certain chemicals / substance used for a specific purpose (e.g. poisoning, explosion, fermenting) / to poison / kill with poison

*Note: another variant of the second character is 藥

円形/圓

January 15, 2012

Japanese Romaji: enkei

Japanese Meaning: circle / round shape / circular form

Parts:

en(mado, maru) - Yen / money / circle / round / ring

kei(kata, gata, katachi, nari, gyou) - form / shape / figure / visage / appearance / style / one's clothing / way / form / pattern / a die (for copying) / a model / state / one's circumstances or situation / one's reputation / tense (linguistic) / (Japanese grammar) a conjugation form of a verb / collateral for borrowed money / "heads" on a coin / obverse of an old "zeni" coin

Chinese Pinyin: yuánxíng

Chinese Meaning: circle / circular / round / spherical

Parts:

yuán - circle / round / circular / spherical / complete / (of the moon) full / tactful / satisfactory / make plausible / to justify / unit of Chinese currency (Yuán)

xíng - form / shape / appearance / figure / complexion / to appear / to look / expression / description / describe / in comparison / show / manifest / terrain / contour

*Note: The two versions of the first character are used in their respective countries to denote a unit of the local currency. In China, the yuán is often written with the simpler 元 character. In Japan, the Yen is actually pronounced "en".

財務

January 16, 2012

Japanese Romaji: zaimu

Japanese Meaning: financial affairs

Parts:

zai(takara, sai) - money / wealth / fortune / riches / assets / property / goods / treasure / (abbreviation)

incorporated foundation

mu(tsuto) - duties / task

Chinese Pinyin: cáiwù

Chinese Meaning: financial affairs

Parts:

cái - money / wealth / riches / property / valuables

wù - duties / affairs / business / matter / must / should / necessary / attend to / endeavor / work / strive
/ strive after to be engaged in / make effort

*Note: a variant of the first character is 賤

雪崩

January 17, 2012

Japanese Romaji: nadare

Japanese Meaning: avalanche

Parts:

na(susu, soso, yuki, buki, setsu, sechi) - snow / (figurative) white hair

dare(kuzu, hou) - crumble / demolish / to level / die

*Note: this is the only combination of these two characters which use the readings “na” and “dare”.

Most other words containing these characters use the readings given in the brackets for each individual character. (e.g. “yuki” means “snow” and “kuzure” means “crumbling”).

Chinese Pinyin: xuěbēng

Chinese Meaning: avalanche

Parts:

xuě - snow / snowfall / to have the appearance of snow / to wipe away, off, or out / to clean / to wash away / erase pain / avenge / wipe away shame / (Cantonese) man made ice and ice products

bēng - to collapse / crumble / fall apart / burst / rupture / split apart / blow up / break down / to fall into ruins / demise / death of king or emperor / (Cantonese) broken or chipped / (Cantonese) a cent

感冒

January 18, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kanbou

Japanese Meaning: cold (illness)

Parts:

kan - emotion / feeling / sensation / perceive / impression / admiration

bou(oka) - dare / defy / to face / risk / damage / assume (a name)

*Note 1: a more commonly used term to refer to the common cold in Japanese is 風邪 (kaze).

Chinese Pinyin: gǎnmào

Chinese Meaning: (common) cold / to catch a cold

Parts:

gǎn - to feel / perceive / emotion / feeling / find / sensation / to sense / to move / to touch / to affect / respond to / (suffix) sense of...

mào - to dare / to risk / to brave / jeopardize / bold / affront / offend / (to be) rash / to emit / to give off / to send out (or up, forth) / to cover / to act under false pretences / pose as / assume false identity

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 冒

暖房

January 19, 2012

Japanese Romaji: danbou

Japanese Meaning: heating

Parts:

dan(atata, no, non) - warming / warmth

bou(fusa, hou) - tuft / tassel / fringe / bunch (of grapes, etc.) / section (of an orange, etc.) / lock (of hair)
/ chamber / room / house

*Note 1: the thing in the middle of the picture is a kotatsu (炬燵)

Chinese Pinyin: nuǎnfáng

Chinese Meaning: heating / central heating / greenhouse / hothouse / to pay a house-warming visit

Parts:

nuǎn - warm / to heat / genial

fáng - house / room / building / chamber

*Note 2: 3 variants of the first character are 煖 煖 煖

岸边/邊

January 20, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kishibe

Japanese Meaning: shore / bank (of a body of water) / coast

Parts:

kishi(gan) - beach / bank / coast / shore

be(ata, he, hoto, hen, pen) - area / vicinity / environs / side (of a shape) / edge / border / boundary /
circumstances / shore (of the sea) / suffix used as a rough indicator of location, direction, time, etc. /
(archaism) surrounding area

Chinese Pinyin: ànbīān

Chinese Meaning: shore / bank (of a body of water) / shoreside

Parts:

àn - shore / bank (of a body of water) / coast / beach / high / lofty / proud

biān(bian) - side / edge / end of something / margin / verge / border / boundary / limits / bounds /
border of a nation's territory / hem / decorative border / nearby / near to / simultaneously / suffix of a
noun of locality / (Cantonese) which, where

*Note: a variant of the first character is 岬 Another variant of the second character is 邊

忍耐

January 21, 2012

Japanese Romaji: nintai

Japanese Meaning: patience / endurance / perseverance

Parts:

nin(shino, shinobi) - to bear / tolerance / endure / patience / put up with / self-restraint / conceal /
secrete / stealth / sneak / spy / (abbreviation) ninja / (abbreviation) ninjutsu

tai(ta) - enduring / resistant / (suffix) -proof (e.g. fireproof, waterproof, etc.)

*Note: one of the words for ninja (shinobi) can be written as 忍び or 忍. "Ninja" itself is written as 忍者.

Chinese Pinyin: rěnnài

Chinese Meaning: to exercise patience / to show restraint / to repress (anger, etc.)

Parts:

rěn - to bear / to tolerate / to endure / to stand / patience / to put up with / to restrain oneself / suffer /
forebear / repress

nài - capable of enduring / to bear / able to tolerate / patient / durable / hardy / resistant

礼拝/禮拜

January 22, 2012

Japanese Romaji: reihai / raihai

Japanese Meaning: worship / adoration / divine service

Parts:

rei(rai) - thanking / expression of gratitude / reverence / salute / bow / remuneration / ceremony

hai(oga, pai) - worship / bowing one's head (in respect or worship) / pray to / adore / respectfully yours

*Note 1: when speaking of Buddhism, this word is read as “raihai”. For all other religions, “reihai” is used.

Chinese Pinyin: lǐbài

Chinese Meaning: week / worship / religious service

Chinese to Japanese Translation: see note 4 for “week”

Parts:

lǐ - gift / present / rites / ceremony / propriety / etiquette / social customs / manners / courtesy / decorum / politeness / civility

bài - to pay respect / worship / to bow / do obeisance / to pray / pay a visit / to call on / to salute / kowtow / appoint (as a government official) / appointment / bye / farewell

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 3: on computers and printed texts, the Chinese version of the first character is displayed as 禮. This is true for characters with the same radical on the left. This is because it is derived from the character 示. Traditional Japanese (kyujitai) actually uses this character in the hand-written form. The Chinese do not (but still prints it this way).

*Note 4: in Chinese, this word can be used to refer to a week or a day of the week (i.e. 禮拜一 “lǐbài yī” means Monday, 禮拜二 “lǐbài'èr” means Tuesday, etc.) This follows the same pattern as with 星期 (xīngqī) explained on October 12, 2011 (星期一, 星期二, etc.) The difference is that 星期 has no religious connotations. The Japanese equivalents are 週間(shuukan) when talking about an entire week, and 曜日(youbi) when referring to a specific day in the week.

*Note 5: the second character can be used in informal Chinese to say good-bye (拜拜 bàibài). This is a transliteration of the English phrase “bye-bye”. Japanese also has バイバイ (baibai).

*Note 6: another variant of the first character is 豐

恭順

January 23, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kyoujun

Japanese Meaning: deference / allegiance

Parts:

kyou(uyauya) - respect / reverent

jun(shitaga) - obedient / docile / submissive / obey / meek / (in) order / (a) turn / sequence / occasion / right

Chinese Pinyin: gōngshùn

Chinese Meaning: deferent

Parts:

gōng - respectful / reverent / polite / deferential

shùn - to obey / to follow / submit to / go along with / cause to surrender / fall in with / in the same direction as / with / along / agreeable / favorable / comfortable / happy / to make reasonable / to arrange / put in order / convenient / smooth / take the opportunity

*Note: on Chinese New Year, one of the New Year's greetings is “恭喜發財” (gōngxǐfācái).

騎士

January 24, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kishi

Japanese Meaning: knight

Parts:

ki - equestrian / riding on horses / counter for horsemen

shi(ji) - gentleman / samurai

*Note 1: 戦士 (senshi) means “soldier” or “warrior”; 武士 (bushi) means “samurai” or “warrior”; 博士 (hakase) means “doctor” (someone with a PhD, etc.)

Chinese Pinyin: qíshì

Chinese Meaning: knight / horseman / cavalryman

Parts:

qí(jì) - to ride (an animal or bike) / ride horseback / equestrian / to sit astride / straddle / mount / cavalry / horseman / saddle horse / mounted soldier

shì - gentleman / specialist worker / scholar / soldier / non-commissioned officer / first class military rank / lowest-ranked noble / honorific for men / bachelor / official in charge of criminal justice / member of the senior ministerial class (archaism)

*Note 2: 戰士 (zhànshì) means “soldier” or “warrior”; 武士 (wǔshì) means “samurai” or “warrior”; 博士 (bóshì) means “doctor” (someone with a PhD, etc.)

蒸籠/籠

January 25, 2012

Japanese Romaji1: seiro / seirou

Japanese Meaning: basket used for steaming food / wooden frame holder with reed base used to steam food over a pot

Parts:

sei(mu, jou) - steam / sultry / heat / get musty / foment

ro(kago, ko, go, komo, gomo, rou) - basket (shopping, etc.) / hamper / cage / coop / implied / seclude oneself / devote oneself

Japanese Romaji2: seiro / seirou

Japanese Meaning: basket used for steaming food / wooden frame holder with reed base used to steam food over a pot

Parts:

sei(mu, jou) - steam / sultry / heat / get musty / foment

ro(kago, ko, go, komo, gomo, rou) - basket (shopping, etc.) / hamper / cage / coop / implied / seclude oneself

*Note 1: both Japanese versions of the second character are interchangeable in this word.

*Note 2: in Japanese, 葛籠 (wicker clothes hamper) is read as "tsudzura"

Chinese Pinyin: zhēnglóng

Chinese Meaning: steamer basket (e.g. for dimsum) / steam box / steamer

Parts:

zhēng - to evaporate / (of cooking) to steam / cook by steaming / steamed / (archaism) torch made from hemp stalks or bamboo / (archaism) finely chopped firewood

lóng(lǒng) - basket / cage / cage-like basket / cage-like container / coop / flat bamboo basket for serving dimsum / bamboo steamer (for buns, dumplings, etc.) / to cover / to cage / to envelop / to veil /

enshroud / covering / envelope / large box / trunk / chest / to embrace / to manipulate through trickery

*Note 3: a variant of the first character is 蒸

繁忙/繁

January 26, 2012

Japanese Romaji: hanbou

Japanese Meaning: very busy / pressure of business

Parts:

han(shige) - complexity / frequency / luxuriant / overgrown / thick / trouble

bou(isoga, sewa) - busy / occupied / restless

Chinese Pinyin: fánmáng

Chinese Meaning: busy / bustling

Parts:

fán - complicated / complex / intricate / difficult / many / numerous / abundant / prolific / in great numbers / traditional form of Chinese characters

máng - busy / fully occupied / hurriedly / make haste / pressed for time / pressed with work / hustling / to hurry / to rush / hasten

*Note 1: 繁體 (fántǐ) refers to the traditional way of writing Chinese characters. 簡體(jiǎntǐ) refers to the simplified way of writing them. All of the Chinese characters I write are in traditional form.

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 𡩺 A variant of the second character is 𡩺

落涙/涙

January 27, 2012

Japanese Romaji: rakurui

Japanese Meaning: shedding tears

Parts:

raku(o) - to fall / to drop / come down / to leave behind

rui(namida) - tears / tear / lachrymal secretion / sympathy

Chinese Pinyin: luòlèi

Chinese Meaning: to shed tears / to weep / lachrymosity

Parts:

luò(là, lào) - to fall / to drop / (of the sun) to set / (of a tide) to go out / to lower / to decline / descend / go down / let fall / to wither / to sink / to lag / weaken / to fall behind / to fall onto / fallen / lose / to rest with / to get / to have / to receive / to write down / put (pen to paper) / whereabouts / settlement / village / tribe / settle down / cease / finish / to leave out / to be missing / to leave behind / to forget to bring / pile / heap / net income / surplus / natural and poised / (Cantonese) deliver / put in / apply

lèi - tears / teardrop / weep / cry

幼稚

January 28, 2012

Japanese Romaji: youchi

Japanese Meaning: infancy / childish / infantile

Parts:

you(osana) - childhood / infancy

chi(itokena) - immature / young

Chinese Pinyin: yòuzhì

Chinese Meaning: young / childish / naive

Parts:

yòu - infant / young / young child / immature / delicate / tender / take care of the young / nurture

zhì - immature / young / childish / infantile / tender / innocent / childhood / child

*Note: 幼稚園 (youchien, yòuzhìyuán) means “kindergarten” in both languages.

腎臟/臟

January 29, 2012

Japanese Romaji: jinzou

Japanese Meaning: kidney

Parts:

jin - kidney

zou - bowels / entrails / viscera

Chinese Pinyin: shènzàng

Chinese Meaning: kidney

Parts:

shèn - kidney / testes / testicle / testis / gizzard

zàng - internal organs / viscera (specifically heart, liver, spleen, lung, and kidney)

*Note: in traditional Chinese medicine, the internal organs of the human body can be classified into the five viscera (heart, liver, spleen, lung, and kidney) and six bowels (stomach, small intestine, large intestine, gall bladder, bladder, and "Triple Focus" (三焦)). (Japanese: 五臟六腑 gozouroppu; Chinese: 五臟六腑 wǔzàngliùfǔ).

The five viscera are also related to the five Chinese elements of Fire, Water, Wood, Metal, and Earth.

Sources:

<http://www.acuhealing.com/tcmtheory/fiveelemnt.htm>

<http://www.acupuncture-and-chinese-medicine.com/five-viscera.html>

殺菌

January 30, 2012

Japanese Romaji: sakkin

Japanese Meaning: sterilization / sterilisation / disinfection

Parts:

satsu(aya, koro, goro, so, sai, setsu) - kill / murder / butcher / diminish / reduce / slice off / split / spoil

kin(kinoko) - bacteria / bacterium / bacillus / germ / fungus / mushroom

*Note 1: in Japanese 殺陣 (staged sword fight) has the reading of “tate”

Chinese Pinyin: shājūn / shājùn

Chinese Meaning: disinfectant / to disinfect / to kill bacteria

Parts:

shā - to kill / to murder / to slaughter / put to death / to fight / to hurt / to weaken / to reduce / to pare off / to clip / to smart (dialect) / deflate / to counteract / (used after a verb) extremely / exceedingly

jūn(jùn) - bacteria / germ / microbe / mushroom / fungus / fungi / mold / mildew / toadstool / yeast / bamboo shoot

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 煞

男児/兒

January 31, 2012

Japanese Romaji: danji

Japanese Meaning: boy / son / man

Parts:

dan(o, otoko, nan) - male person / man / a husband

ji(ko, go, ni) - child / boy / girl / offspring / newborn babe / young of animals / young woman / young

geisha / offshoot / interest / (abbreviation) new shares / (archaism) bird egg / (noun suffix) (after a noun or -masu stem) -er (often of young women)

Chinese Pinyin: nán'ér

Chinese Meaning: boy / son / man / guy

Parts:

nán - human male / man / masculine / boy / son / baron

ér(r) - son / child / baby / oneself / referring to oneself when addressing parents / final particle, suffix placed after many commonly used nouns to avoid employing one-syllable terms in speech / non-syllabic diminutive suffix / retroflex final

*Note: a variant of the first character is 偶

八杯

February 1, 2012

Japanese Romaji: happai

Japanese Meaning: eight (cupfuls / glasses / etc.)

Parts:

hachi(ya, yatsu, you) - eight

pai(hai, bai, sakazuki) - sake cup / cup for alcoholic beverages / a glass / wine glass / a toast / cup (contest) / counter for cupfuls, spoonfuls / counter for ships, octopi, squid, cuttlefish, crabs, squid, abalone

Chinese Pinyin: bābēi

Chinese Meaning: eight (cupfuls / glasses / etc.)

Parts:

bā - eight / all around / all sides

bēi - cup / glass / goblet / tumbler / trophy cup / counter for certain containers of liquids (glass, cup)

*Note 1: 乾杯 (kanpai, gānbēi) is said during toasts. The English equivalents are “cheers!” or “bottoms up!” It literally means “a dry glass”.

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 丷 Three variants of the second character are 盃 椀 樽 (The first of these is also a separate character).

宿酔/酔

February 2, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shukusui

Japanese Meaning: hangover (from drinking)

Parts:

shuku(yado, juku) - lodging / lodge / inn / hotel / house / home / dwell / dwelling / home of a servant's parents (or guarantor, etc.) / relay station / post town / be pregnant / constellation / mansion (in Chinese astronomy) / outcasts (those from Kamakura period to the Edo period, common around the Kyoto region)

sui(yo) - drunk / intoxicated / poisoned / feel sick / elated / spellbound

*Note 1: 二日酔い (futsukayoi) also means “hangover” in Japanese. It literally translates to “second day drunkenness”.

Chinese Pinyin: sùzuì

Chinese Meaning: hangover (from drinking)

Parts:

sù(xiǔ, xiù) - lodge for the night / stay overnight / spend a night / stop / rest / stay overnight / old / former / long-standing / long-running / long time / veteran / experienced / eminent / night / counter for nights / constellation / mansion (in Chinese astronomy)

zuì - drunk / intoxicated / tipsy / addicted to / infatuated by / crazy about / (of food) liquor-saturated / wine-soaked / marinated in wine

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 宿

血族

February 3, 2012

Japanese Romaji: ketsuzoku

Japanese Meaning: blood relative

Parts:

ketsu(chi, dji) - blood / consanguinity

zoku(yakara) - family / tribe / clan / band / fellow / group (of the periodic table) / party (of people) / set (of people)

*Note: In Japanese, 5 sets of hiragana characters (ぢ, づ, ぢゃ, ぢゅ, ぢょ) are pronounced the same as 5 others (じ, ず, じゃ, じゅ, じょ). The romanization I am used to lists the pronunciations for them as “ji”, “zu”, “ja”, “ju”, “jo” respectively. To differentiate them in this project, I am choosing to write the first set of characters as “dji”, “dzu”, “dja”, “dju”, “djo”. They are used less frequently than the second set of characters. (Example: “blood” is pronounced “chi”, but 鼻血 (nosebleed) is pronounced “hanaji” (はなぢ). With my convention, I would spell it as “hanadji”)

Chinese Pinyin: xuèzú

Chinese Meaning: blood relations / one’s own flesh and blood / kin

Parts:

xuè(xiě) - blood / blood relationship / related by blood / consanguinity / energetic and high-spirited

zú - family / race (of people) / nationality / ethnicity / ethnic group / clan / tribe / social group / class or group of things with common features

爆竹

February 4, 2012

Japanese Romaji: bakuchiku

Japanese Meaning: firecracker

Parts:

baku(ha) - bomb / burst open / explode / pop / split / exclamation / burst of laughter

chiku(take, dake) - bamboo / middle of a three-tier ranking system

Chinese Pinyin: bàozhú

Chinese Meaning: firecracker

Parts:

bào - bomb / to explode / to burst / to blow up / blow out / crackle / pop / occur unexpectedly / break out / quick-fry / quick-boil / (Cantonese) disclose, expose, reveal / (Cantonese) burgle, burglarize / (Cantonese) full to capacity, a full house

zhú - bamboo / slips of bamboo for writing / flute

容器/器

February 5, 2012

Japanese Romaji: youki

Japanese Meaning: container / vessel

Parts:

you(i, katachi) - form / shape / figure / looks / visage / contain

ki(utsuwa) - device / instrument / an implement / set / tool / utensil / receptacle / bowl / vessel /
container / ability / capacity / calibre / caliber / talent

Chinese Pinyin: róngqì

Chinese Meaning: container / vessel / receptacle

Parts:

róng - appearance / looks / figure / form / face / expression / countenance / to hold / to contain / to
allow / to permit / forgive / to pardon / to tolerate / forbear / forbearance

qì - device / tool / utensil / instrument / an implement / piece of apparatus / ware / vessel / receptacle /
(medicine) organ / magnanimity / talent / ability / capacity / tolerance / to think highly of (a person)

龜甲/龜

February 6, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kikou / kikkou

Japanese Meaning: tortoise shell / turtle shell

Parts:

ki(kame, game) - tortoise / turtle

kou(kinoe, ka, ga, kan, kabuto) - carapace / shell / helmet (of armor) / headpiece / first in rank / grade A / instep / back of hand / treble range (in Japanese music) / high note / first sign of the Chinese calendar

Chinese Pinyin: guījiǎ

Chinese Meaning: tortoise shell / turtle shell / armor / armor plating

Parts:

guī - tortoise / turtle / cuckold

jiǎ - carapace / shell / armor / crust / fingernail / toenail / first (in a list, as a party to a contract, etc.) / most outstanding / first sign of the Chinese calendar / first in order

*Note 1: the first character in Chinese has two written forms. It is also one of the radicals with the second highest number of strokes (tied with dragon 龍 at 16 strokes). (The one with the highest stroke count is 龠 with 17).

*Note 2: the second character (along with 9 others) are related to the Chinese Zodiac and the five Chinese elements in a 60-year cycle. Further details here:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexagenary_cycle

*Note 3: the first 4 of those 10 characters is sometimes used to correspond to Roman letters (甲 (jiǎ) = A; 乙 (yǐ) = B; 丙 (bǐng) = C; 丁 (ding) = D or F; 甲乙丙丁 = ABCD). These could be used for multiple choice exams, letter grades in school, ranking things, etc.

満身/満

February 7, 2012

Japanese Romaji: manshin

Japanese Meaning: the whole body / all one's (strength, anger, spirit, etc.)

Parts:

man(mi) - full / fullness / enough / satisfy

shin(mi) - body / oneself / person / somebody / one's place / one's position / one's station in life / main part / meat (as opposed to bone, skin, etc.) / wood (as opposed to bark) / blade (as opposed to its handle) / container (as opposed to its lid) / sword

Chinese Pinyin: mǎnshēn

Chinese Meaning: covered all over

Parts:

mǎn - full / filled / to fill / packed with / fully / plentiful / abundant / completely / entirely / perfectly / entire / whole / complete / quite / to reach the limit / expire / to satisfy / satisfied / contented / gratify / proud / haughty / Manchurian

shēn - body / life / oneself / one's own person / personally / in person / one's morality and conduct / the main part of a structure or body / trunk / hull / a child in the womb / counter for sets of clothes: suit, twinset

逃走

February 8, 2012

Japanese Romaji: tousou

Japanese Meaning: escape / desertion / flight / getaway

Parts:

tou(ni, noga) - escape / evade / flee / shirk / set free

sou(hashi) - run / race

Chinese Pinyin: táozǒu

Chinese Meaning: to escape / to flee / to run away

Parts:

táo - to escape / to run away / to flee / abscond / dodge / evade / avoid / shirk

zǒu - to run (Cantonese) / to go / to walk (Mandarin) / to go on foot / to move (of a vehicle) / to visit / to leave / to go away / to die (euphemism) / from / through / to leak / reveal / to let out / to change (shape, form, meaning) / lose the original shape, flavour, etc. / away (in compound verbs)

*Note: a variant of the first character is 逃 A variant of the second character is 走

塩酸/鹽

February 9, 2012

Japanese Romaji: ensan

Japanese Meaning: hydrochloric acid (HCl)

Parts:

en(shio) - salt / sodium chloride

san(su) - acid / sour / sourness / sour taste / tart / bitterness

Chinese Pinyin: yánsuān

Chinese Meaning: hydrochloric acid (HCl) / hydrochloride

Parts:

yán - salt / sodium chloride

suān - sour / acid / tart / sore / ache / aching / tingle / stiff / spoiled / stale / sad / grieved / sorrowful /
jealous / envious / stingy

*Note: a variant of the second character is 痠

九尾

February 10, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kyuubi

Japanese Meaning: nine tails

Parts:

kyuu(kokono, ku) - nine / an indeterminate large number / a myriad / a great many

bi(o, po) - tail (animal, kite, comet, etc.) / tail end / the end of something / slope at the foot of a mountain / counter for fish, shrimp, etc.

*Note 1: in Japanese, 九十九 (ninety-nine) is also read as “tsukumo”

Chinese Pinyin: jiǔwěi

Chinese Meaning: nine tails

Parts:

jiǔ - nine

wěi(yǐ) - tail / rear / tail-like part / extremity / end / stern (of a ship, etc.) / remainder / remnant / remaining part / last / final / counter for fish / horse's tail / hairs on a horse's tail / pointed posterior section of a locust, etc.

*Note 2: the nine-tailed fox is a creature in Chinese/Japanese mythology. Its Chinese name is 九尾狐 (jiǔwěihú) and its Japanese name is 九尾の狐 (kyuubi no kitsune).

苦渋/澀

February 11, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kujuu

Japanese Meaning: bitterness / distress / affliction / mortification / difficulty in understanding

Parts:

ku(kuru, guru, niga) - pain / anguish / suffering / distress / anxiety / feel bitter / worry / trouble / difficulty / hardship / trial / scowl / bitter taste / (Buddhism) duhkha (suffering)

juu(shibu) - bitter / astringent / hesitate / reluctant / astringent (puckery) juice (of unripe persimmons) / have diarrhea

Chinese Pinyin: kǔsè

Chinese Meaning: bitter and astringent / hard to the taste / pained / agonized / anguished

Parts:

kǔ - bitter / hardship / pain / painful / to suffer from / to bring suffering to / hard / difficult / laborious / miserable / painstakingly / doing one's utmost / strenuous / earnest / diligent / abhor

sè - astringent / tart / acerbity / puckery / taste-numbing / unsmooth / rough (surface) / uneven / blunt / harsh / hard to understand / obscure / difficult

*Note 1: this can either refer to bitter-tasting food or bitterness in mood (e.g. in a painful choice)

*Note 2: the second character has three other old variants: 澀 澁 澁

勲章/勳勳

February 12, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kunshou

Japanese Meaning: medal / order (of merit) / decoration

Parts:

kun(isao) - merit / meritorious deed / distinguished service

shou - composition / chapter / section / poem / design / badge / medal

Chinese Pinyin: xūnzhāng

Chinese Meaning: medal / order (of merit) / decoration

Parts:

xūn - merit / medal / achievement / rank / meritorious deed

zhāng - composition / chapter / section / piece of writing / clause / seal / stamp / emblem / badge /
regulation / order / system / statute / organized body / make clear / make known / pattern / example

*Note: The Chinese version of the first character has two traditional variants

私心

February 13, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shishin

Japanese Meaning: selfishness / selfish motives

Parts:

shi(watakushi, watashi, atashi) - I / me / myself / private / personal

shin(kokoro, gokoro) - heart / mind / spirit / soul / core / core (of fruit, etc.) / wick / lead (of pencil) / padding / thoughts / ideas / vitality / inner strength / marrow / feelings / emotion / emotional state / attention / interest / wholeheartedness / sincerity / true heart / sympathy / consideration / generous disposition / the meaning of a phrase (riddle, etc.) / essence / answer

*Note 1: The Japanese have multiple ways of saying “I”, “me”, etc. 私 (watashi) is the simplest polite way of saying “I” or “me”. 私 (watakushi) is very formal and 私 (atashi) is feminine. There are several more ways in various dialects and in differing degrees of politeness.

*Note 2: 初心 (innocent) has the uncommon alternative reading of “ubu”

Chinese Pinyin: sīxīn

Chinese Meaning: selfishness / selfish motives

Parts:

sī - personal / private / person-to-person / selfish / selfishly / secret / clandestine / prejudiced / biased / favor / have illicit relations or an affair with / contraband / reproductive organs of both sexes

xīn - heart / mind / conscience / moral nature / intention / idea / ambition / design / centre / center / core / middle / inside / soul / intelligence

*Note 3: a variant of the second character is 心

初恋/戀

February 14, 2012

Japanese Romaji: hatsukoi

Japanese Meaning: first love / puppy love

Parts:

hatsu(ui, ubu, so, zo, haji, sho) - beginning / first time / first / start / new / innocent / naïve / unsophisticated / inexperienced / green / wet behind the ears / birth-
koi(ko, ren) - romance / in love / tender passion / darling / to miss / yearn for

*Note 1: 初心 (innocent) has the uncommon alternative reading of “ubu”

Chinese Pinyin: chūliàn

Chinese Meaning: first love / puppy love

Parts:

chū - (at the) beginning / at first / first / initial / primary / early / original / junior / basic
liàn - to love / to be in love / to feel attached to / to long for / yearn for

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified form of the Chinese version.

碑文/碑

February 15, 2012

Japanese Romaji: hibun

Japanese Meaning: inscription / epigraph / epitaph

Parts:

hi(ishibumi, pi) - stone monument bearing an inscription / monument / tombstone

bun(aya, fumi, mo, mon) - letter / writings / sentence / text / literature / figure / design / style / plan / art / decoration

Chinese Pinyin: bēiwén

Chinese Meaning: an inscription on a tablet

Parts:

bēi - a monument / an upright stone tablet / stele / gravestone

wén - writing / article / composition / language / culture / formal / literary / literature / education / gentle / elegant / cultured / polished / suave / civil / polite / urbane / mild / civilian / civil

*Note: the Japanese version of the first character has 14 strokes, but the Chinese version has 13.

思考

February 16, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shikou

Japanese Meaning: thought / consideration / thinking / a train of thought

Parts:

shi(omo) - think

kou(kanga) - consider / think over

Chinese Pinyin: sīkǎo

Chinese Meaning: to think over / to reflect on / to ponder over

Parts:

sī - to think / to consider / ponder / contemplate / remember / recall / think of / mourn / grieve / admire / pine for / (final particle to sound off an expression)

kǎo - to check / to verify / to test / to examine / to investigate / to study / to take an exam / to take an entrance exam for / to consider

貿易

February 17, 2012

Japanese Romaji: boueki

Japanese Meaning: (foreign) trade / commerce

Parts:

bou - exchange / trade

eki(yasa, yasu, i) - easy / easiness / simple / ready to / divination / fortune-telling

Chinese Pinyin: màoyì

Chinese Meaning: (commercial) trade

Parts:

mào - commerce / trade / barter / exchange / mixed / rashly / hastily

yì - easy / simple / liable to / amiable / lenient / to change / replace / to exchange / barter

準備

February 18, 2012

Japanese Romaji: junbi

Japanese Meaning: preparation / setup / arrangements / provision / reserve

Parts:

jun(nazora) - associate / conform / correspond to / proportionate to / imitate / semi- / quasi-

bi(sona, tsubusa) - equip / preparation / provision

Chinese Pinyin: zhǔnbèi

Chinese Meaning: preparation / to prepare / to get ready / to intend / to plan / to be about to / reserve (fund)

Parts:

zhǔn - (be) level / even / accurate / criterion / accuracy / standard / rule / guideline / rank next to / follow / aim / sight / definitely / certainly / about to become (bride, son-in-law, etc.) / would-be / to-be / semi- / quasi- / para- / pene- / sub- / demi-

bèi - to prepare / get ready / to provide / equip / perfect / sense of completeness / fully / in every possible way

*Note: the printed version of the second character in some fonts looks slightly different.

歴史/歴

February 19, 2012

Japanese Romaji: rekishi

Japanese Meaning: history

Parts:

reki(he, rekki) - continuation / passage of time / past / curriculum / take place / history of / experience of

shi - chronicle / history

Chinese Pinyin: lìshǐ

Chinese Meaning: history

Parts:

lì - to pass through / all / each / every / successive / all preceding / all previous / past / history / to experience / to undergo / take place / go through / one by one / one after another

shǐ - chronicle / history / annals / title of an official historian in ancient China

*Note: another variant of the first character is 厯

劇毒

February 20, 2012

Japanese Romaji: gekidoku

Japanese Meaning: deadly poison

Parts:

geki(hage) - drama / a play / (abbreviation) a powerful drug

doku - poison / toxicant / venom / germ / virus / harm / injury / spite

Chinese Pinyin: jùdú

Chinese Meaning: acute poison / severely toxic / deadly poison

Parts:

jù - drama / theatrical play / opera / show / severe / acute / sharp / intense

dú - poison / poisonous / venom / toxin

*Note: some fonts display the second character like the Japanese version, but with the center vertical stroke in the bottom part extending further out of the bottom.

犯罪

February 21, 2012

Japanese Romaji: hanzai

Japanese Meaning: crime / to break the law

Parts:

han(oka, pan, bon) - (some type of) crime / offense / sin / perpetrator (of some crime)

zai(tsumi) - crime / fault / indiscretion / sin / blame / guilt / offense / offence

Chinese Pinyin: fànzui

Chinese Meaning: to commit a crime / to break the law / crime / offense

Parts:

fàn - to violate / to offend / to assault / go against / invade (country) / attack / encroach on / violate (law) / break (rule) / commit (crime, mistake, etc.) / perpetrate (atrocities) / criminal / convict / culprit / crime / to make a mistake / recurrence (of mistake or something bad) / suffer recurrence of (illness, bad habit, etc.) / revert to (bad habit) / need / be worthwhile

zuì - guilt / crime / offence / offense / charge / fault / blame / mistake / sin / vice / evil / hardship / suffering / pain / misery

*Note: a variant of the second character is 辜

錯誤

February 22, 2012

Japanese Romaji: sakugo

Japanese Meaning: mistake / error / misunderstood

Parts:

saku(shaku, kosuri) - confused / mix / be in disorder / rubbing / scrubbing / scraping

go(ayama) - mistake / mislead / err / do wrong

Chinese Pinyin: cuòwù

Chinese Meaning: mistake / error / mistaken / false / wrong

Parts:

cuò - error / blunder / mistake / wrong / mistaken / erroneous / fault / demerit / (used in the negative)
bad / poor / interlocking / interlocked and jagged / strewn with / strewn around / complex / intricate /
confused / to grind / to polish / to alternate / to stagger / to miss / to let slip / to evade / dodge / miss
out / to inlay with gold or silver / polish jade / grindstone

wù - a mistake / to make a mistake / mistakenly / error / err / by accident / to miss / to harm / suffer /
injure / interfere / to delay / to miss / to neglect

*Note 1: some fonts display the right components of the second character as a “口” character on top of
a “天” character.

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 悞

監禁

February 23, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kankin

Japanese Meaning: confinement / imprisonment / captivity / detention

Parts:

kan(gen) - administer / government office / government agency / bureaucrat / official / manage / oversee / to rule / control or own / (archaism) special Nara-period administrative division for areas containing a detached palace (Yoshino and Izumi) / (archaism) secretary; third highest-ranking officials in the Dazaifu

kin - ban / forbid / prohibition

Chinese Pinyin: jiānjìn

Chinese Meaning: to imprison / to jail / to take into custody

Parts:

jiān(jiàn) - to supervise / to control / direct / to inspect / to watch / hard / strong / solid / firm / jail / prison / gaol / put in jail / take into custody / supervisor / (Cantonese) compel, coerce, to force, forcibly, with coercion / imperial office / imperial college

jìn(jīn) - to prohibit / to forbid / restrict / taboo / imprison / confine / detain / royal residence / forbidden area / to endure / to bear / to stand / restrain oneself / contain oneself

*Note: a variant of the first character is 警

豆腐

February 24, 2012

Japanese Romaji: toufu / doufu

Japanese Meaning: tofu / bean curd

Parts:

tou(mame, zu, dou) - beans / peas / legume (especially edible legumes or their seeds, such as beans, peas, pulses, etc.) / pulse (legume) / soybean / soya bean / soy (Glycine max) / miniature / tiny / child / midget / (colloquialism) kidney

fu(kusa, pu) - decay / rot / sour

Chinese Pinyin: dòufu / dòufǔ

Chinese Meaning: tofu / bean curd

Parts:

dòu - bean / peas / bean-shaped / legume / sacrificial vessel / ancient stemmed cup or bowl (for food)

fǔ - decay / rotten / rot / spoil / become putrid / stale / worn-out / corrupt / bean curd / tofu / soybean

*Note a variant of the first character is 豇

昆虫/蟲

February 25, 2012

Japanese Romaji: konchuu

Japanese Meaning: insect / bug

Parts:

kon(ko) - insect / a swarm of or an organism that swarms (e.g. bugs) / an organism that forms in large groups (e.g. kombu) / descendants / elder brother

chuu(mushi, ki) - bug / insect / cricket / moth / worm / temper / a person living for only one thing / a thought which is in the deep in mind

Chinese Pinyin: kūnchóng

Chinese Meaning: insect

Parts:

kūn - descendant / offspring / progeny / elder brother / a style of Chinese poetry / (Cantonese) fool, trick, lure

chóng - worm / insect / bug / lower form of animal life, including insects, insect larvae, worms and similar creatures / generic term for animals / person with a particular undesirable characteristic

*Note 1: technically speaking, this term refers specifically to small, six-legged animals and the second character when used alone can refer to many types of similar small animals in general (including spiders, worms, and “gejigeji”). This is similar to the difference between “insect” and the informal use of “bug”.

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character

*Note 3: a variant of the first character is 崑. The first character is also the simplified Chinese form of 崑.

俳句

February 26, 2012

Japanese Romaji: haiku

Japanese Meaning: haiku (form of Japanese poetry)

Parts:

hai - actor / haiku

ku - section (of text, etc.) / sentence / passage / paragraph / phrase / clause / verse / line / stanza /

haiku / maxim / saying / idiom / expression / counter for haiku

Chinese Pinyin: páijù

Chinese Meaning: haiku (form of Japanese poetry)

Parts:

pái - not serious / variety show / actor / insincere

jù(gōu) - sentence / words / clause / phrase / counter for phrases or lines of verse

*Note 1: the haiku could be translated to:

“For today’s haiku,

After failing to write it...

snow falls from the sky”

*Note 2: I prepared the day’s kanji a week ago, but it actually snowed today.

払暁/拂曉

February 27, 2012

Japanese Romaji: futsugyou

Japanese Meaning: dawn / daybreak

Parts:

futsu(hara, bara, hotsu) - pay / to prune / dispose of / clear out / banish

gyou(akatsuki) - dawn / daybreak / occasion / occurrence / in the event...

Chinese Pinyin: fúxiǎo

Chinese Meaning: daybreak / approach of dawn

Parts:

fú - to brush away / shake off / dust off

xiǎo - dawn / daybreak / to know / to understand / to let somebody know / inform / tell / to make explicit / make clear

近隣/鄰

February 28, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kinrin

Japanese Meaning: neighbourhood / neighborhood / vicinity

Parts:

kin(chika, djika, kon) - near / nearby / close / early / akin / tantamount

rin(tonari, tona) - neighbouring / neighboring / neighbour / neighbor / next to (especially living next door to) / next door to

Chinese Pinyin: jìnlín

Chinese Meaning: close neighbour / close neighbor

Parts:

jìn - near / close (in space) / close (in time) / nearby / neighboring / neighbouring / immediate / recent / close (in abstract relation) / intimate / closely related / approximately / approach / approximate / approaching

lín - neighbour / neighbor / neighbourhood / neighborhood / neighboring / neighbouring / community / adjacent / adjoining / adjacent / contiguous / close to / a basic community which consists of a number of families in the same neighborhood

*Note: a variant of the second character is 隣

閏年

February 29, 2012

Japanese Romaji: uruudoshi / junnen

Japanese Meaning: leap year / intercalary year / bissextile year

Parts:

uruu(jun) - intercalation / embolism / illegitimate throne

doshi(toshi, nen) - year / age / a grade / a school year / past one's prime / old age / counter for years

Chinese Pinyin: rùnnián

Chinese Meaning: leap year / intercalary year / bissextile year

Parts:

rùn - intercalary / intercalation / extra / surplus / addition

nián - year / new year / person's age

*Note 1: in the Chinese calendar, every two or three years there is an intercalary month. Similar to the leap-day which happens every four years (except years divisible by 100 but not by 4) in the Western calendar, the intercalary month is an extra month in the lunar year and could be placed after any of the usual 12 months. One way to tell if a current year is a leap year is if the next Chinese New Year is on a date later than the current year's New Year date. 2012 is actually a Chinese leap year, with the leap-month (閏月 rùnyuè) occurring from May 21 to June 18, after the fourth lunar month.

*Note 2: in Japanese, the first character is often written in hiragana alone (うるう年).

極端

March 1, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kyokutan

Japanese Meaning: extreme / extremity

Parts:

kyoku(ki, gi, kiwa, goku) - pole (geographical, physics) / climax / extreme / extremely / extremity / culmination / conclusion / end / highly / height / zenith / nadir / highest rank / electric poles / quite / very / most / settlement / quindecillion (US) / octillion (Europe) / 10^{48}

tan(ha, hashi, hashita, haji, hata, hana, ba, bata) - end (e.g. of a street) / tip (of something) / point / edge / margin / border / verge / cape / beginning / start / first / origin / odds and ends / scrap / odd bit / least / near / close / beside / vicinity / proximity / besides / while / third person / fraction / odd sum / (abbreviation) loose change / (archaism) low class female servant / variable measure of fabric (28.8 cm in width); for kimonos: at least 10 m in length; for haori: at least 7.27 m in length; for other clothes: at least 6.06 m in length

Chinese Pinyin: jíduān

Chinese Meaning: extreme

Parts:

jí - pole (geographical, physics) / extremely / extreme / exceedingly / utmost / furthest / farthest / final / highest / topmost / exhaust / reach at / arrive at / 10^{48}

duān - end (e.g. of a street) / tip (of something) / point / aspect / extremity / extreme / item / port / to hold something level with both hands / to carry / regular / head / beginning / cause / reason / erect / upright / proper

*Note 1: in English, numbers larger than 1,000,000 (million) are named differently between some English-speaking countries (there are two systems: “short scale” and “long scale”). The short scale is based on factors of 1000 while the long scale is based on factors of 1,000,000. For example, the first kanji can refer to a number with 48 zeros. This number is called one “quindecillion” under the short scale and one “octillion” on the long scale. However, a “quindecillion” in the long scale has 90 zeros while an “octillion” in the short scale has 27 zeros. Further details at:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Names_of_large_numbers

Japan and China use the myriad system, based on factors of 10,000.

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 端

潜入/潜

March 2, 2012

Japanese Romaji: sen'nyuu

Japanese Meaning: infiltration / sneaking in

Parts:

sen(kugu, hiso, mogu) - conceal / hide / hush / lower (voice) / submerge

nyuu(i, iri, hai, ju, shio) - to enter / insert / (archaism) counter for soakings (of fabric in a dye)

*Note 1: in Japanese, 入梅 (entering the rainy season) is read as "tsuyui"ri

Chinese Pinyin: qiánrù

Chinese Meaning: to infiltrate / to steal into / sneak into / slip into / to enter secretly / to submerge / to go underwater / dive into

Parts:

qián - hidden / hide / secret / latent / potential / to hide / to conceal / lie low / stealthily / secretly / on the sly / to submerge / to dive / go underwater

rù - to enter / to go into / come in(to) / to get in / to join / to become a member of / to come into the company of / to confirm / to agree with / conform to / to arrive at / to reach / put in / receipts / income / get out of sight / disappear / get (inside, picked, elected, etc.) / one of the four tones of a character

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 3: the Chinese term has the added meaning of diving into water. The Japanese equivalent is 潜水 (sensui).

*Note 4: the first character has one other variant: 潛

*Note 5: do not confuse the second character with 人

玄関/關

March 3, 2012

Japanese Romaji: genkan

Japanese Meaning: entranceway / entrance hall / entryway / vestibule / foyer / mud room

Parts:

gen(ken, kuro) - mysterious / occultness

kan(kaka, seki, zeki) - barrier / gate / gateway / concerning / connection / involve / honorific added to names of makuuchi and juryo division sumo wrestlers

Chinese Pinyin: xuán'guān

Chinese Meaning: entrance hall / front door / porch / vestibule

Parts:

xuán - mysterious / deep / profound / abstruse / subtle / black / black with some red / dark / mystic / occult / far and obscure / silent / meditative / pretending

guān - mountain pass / frontier pass / checkpoint / the bar across the door / customs house / customs barrier / key point / turning point / to concern / to involve / relation / relationship / related / to close / to shut off / to turn off / negotiate / go between / draw (money, pay)

*Note 1: the simplified Chinese version of the second character is 关, the same as the character inside the 門 of the Japanese version.

*Note 2: another variant of the second character is 關

位置

March 4, 2012

Japanese Romaji: ichi

Japanese Meaning: place / situation / position / location

Parts:

i(kurai, gurai) - rank / place (e.g. first place) / social standing / class / echelon / rung / grade (of quality, etc.) / level / tier / decimal place / throne / crown / (nobleman's) seat / government position / court rank / degree / extent / amount / about / some / counter for ghosts

chi(o) - put / set / deposit / leave behind / keep / employ / pawn / placement

Chinese Pinyin: wèizhi

Chinese Meaning: position / place / seat / to deal with / to arrange for

Parts:

wèi - position / rank / status / location / place / post / seat / throne / (honorific) counter for people / counter for binary bits

zhi(zhì) - to place / to put / to lay out / set aside / to install / to set up / establish / to buy / procure / purchase

*Note: the Japanese version of the second character is also sometimes used in Chinese.

桜桃/櫻

March 5, 2012

Japanese Romaji: outou

Japanese Meaning: cherry

Parts:

ou(sakura) - cherry / cherry tree / cherry blossom / (colloquial) horse meat / decoy / fake buyer / shill / hired applauder

tou(momo) - peach / peach tree

*Note 1: in Japanese, サクランボ (sakuranbo) and ユスラウメ (yusuraume) also mean “cherry”.

*Note 2: in Japanese cuisine, raw horse meat is called 桜肉 (sakuraniku) because of its pink color.

Chinese Pinyin: yīngtáo

Chinese Meaning: cherry

Parts:

yīng - cherry / cherry blossom

táo - peach

支流

March 6, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shiryuu

Japanese Meaning: (river) tributary / branch

Parts:

shi(ka, sasa, tsuka) - branch / support / sustain / hands and legs / little pieces separated

ryuu(naga, ru) - flow / current / a sink / forfeit / style of / method of / manner of / school (of thought)

*Note: in Japanese, 流離う (to wander) is read as “sasurau”; 流行る (to spread; to become popular, etc.) is read as “hayaru”.

Chinese Pinyin: zhīliú

Chinese Meaning: tributary (river)

Parts:

zhī - branch / division / offshoot / subdivision / disperse / separate / divide / dismember / send away / dispatch / put somebody off / to support / to sustain / withstand / to set up / to prop up / to erect / to raise / protrude / prick up / to draw money / pay / disburse / counter for rod-like or long, slender, inflexible objects (pens, pencils, flowers, toothpaste, guns, etc.), army divisions, songs, compositions / twelve earthly branches

liú - to flow / to disseminate / to circulate / to spread / to discharge / to move / to drift / to wander / to stray / to degenerate / to banish / to send into exile / stream of water or something resembling one / class / rate / rank / grade / branch / division / unsettled / unfixed / mobile / style of / (Cantonese)

untrue, false, inferior quality

薄暮

March 7, 2012

Japanese Romaji: hakubo

Japanese Meaning: dusk / nightfall / twilight

Parts:

haku(usu, susuki, baku) - dilute / thin / weak (tea) / light (color) / sparse / scanty

bo(ku, gu, kura) - livelihood / make a living / spend time

Chinese Pinyin: bómù

Chinese Meaning: dusk / twilight / haze

Parts:

bó(báo, bò) - thin / weak / poor / light / flimsy / slim / meager / meagre / slight / small / cold in manner / indifferent / ungenerous / unkind / stingy / infertile / barren / frivolous / unstatelty / harsh / to despise / to belittle / disdain / to look down on / to approach / to draw near / to close in / peppermint

mù - evening / sunset / dusk / ending / late / closing

優勝

March 8, 2012

Japanese Romaji: yuushou

Japanese Meaning: overall victory / championship / a title

Parts:

yuu(sugu, masa, yasa, u) - gentleness / tenderness / gentle / kind (adjective) / affectionate / elegant / classy / rich / wealthy / actor / excel / excellent / superiority / skilled / surpass

shou(ka, ga, sugu, masa) - excel / prevail / victory / win / to get the better of / beautiful scenery / scenic spot / counter for wins

Chinese Pinyin: yōushèng

Chinese Meaning: winning / victory / superior

Parts:

yōu - excellent / superior / good / abundant / plenty / actor / victory / winning / soft

shèng - win / victory / success / to beat / to defeat / to surpass / victorious / excel / triumph over / superior to / to get the better of / better than / surpassing / beautiful scenery / scenic spot / competent / equal to / completely / entirely / wholly

方言

March 9, 2012

Japanese Romaji: hougen

Japanese Meaning: dialect / provincialism

Parts:

hou(kata, gata) - direction / way / side / area (in a particular direction) / way of / method of / manner of / means / care of... / person in charge of... / side (e.g. on my mother's side) / one side of a comparison / side (of an argument, etc.) / one's part / alternative / person / lady / gentleman / type / category / field (of study) / length (of each side of a square) / around (that time, etc.) / about / honorific pluralizing suffix (for people only)

gen(i, koto, goto, gon) - say / word / remark / statement

*Note 1: in Japanese, 方 (kata) is a more formal way of referring to a person/people (人, hito).

*Note 2: in Japanese, 貴方 (you) can be read as "anata"; 彼方 (beyond) is read as "kanata".

Chinese Pinyin: fāngyán

Chinese Meaning: dialect / topolect / regionalelect

Parts:

fāng(fang) - direction / side / party (to a contract, dispute, etc.) / place/ a region / local / area / method / way / aspect / upright / honest / morally upright / fair and square / prescription (medicine) / recipe / just now / just then / when / just when / only or just / square / rectangle / rectangular / one side / occultism / power or involution (math) / short for square meter or cubic meter / counter for square things

yán - to say / to talk / words / speech / speak / to mean / express / language / dialect / tongue / used as a particle, adverb, etc. in various ancient expressions without meaning

*Note 3: the picture is of multiple ways to say "delicious" in various Japanese dialects. More can be found at the following web sites:

<http://threestepsoverjapan.blogspot.com/2008/08/whats-another-word-for-oishii.html>

http://blogs.yahoo.co.jp/zuzu_0215/57613299.html

波状/狀

March 10, 2012

Japanese Romaji: hajou

Japanese Meaning: wavelike / in waves / undulation

Parts:

ha(nami, pa) - waves / billows / Poland

jou - shape / state / letter / correspondence / form / appearance / circumstances / conditions / status
quo

Chinese Pinyin: bōzhuàng

Chinese Meaning: wave-shaped / wavy

Parts:

bō - wave / ripple / breakers / undulations / undulate / fluctuate / fluctuations / storm / surge / affect /
involve / implicate / entangle / Poland

zhuàng - form / appearance / shape / official / condition / state / situation / strong / certificate / warrant
/ record / accusation / suit / written appeal / plaint / lawsuit / describe / narrate / description / great /
-shaped

*Note: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese
character.

羈絆

March 11, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kihan

Japanese Meaning: bond / connection / shackles / restraints / fetters

Parts:

ki(omogai) - connection / reins / headgear / headstall

han(kizuna, hoda, ban) - bonds / fetters

*Note 1: while this term isn't commonly used in Japanese, the second character (kizuna) is frequently used by itself to mean bonds in an emotional sense (e.g. in friendship, kinship, love, etc.) It was chosen as Japan's Kanji of the Year in 2011.

Chinese Pinyin: jībàn

Chinese Meaning: to restrain / to hinder / restraint / trammels / fetters / yoke / shackles / bond / connection

Parts:

jī - to restrain / to detain / to confine / bind / bridle / halter / to hold / control / to lodge / inn

bàn - to trip / to stumble / to hinder / catch / loop / fetter / shackle

*Note 2: historically speaking, the Chinese term refers only to things which are physically or metaphorically restraining (e.g. shackles, fetters, prohibitions, beliefs, etc.), whereas the Japanese term can include an emotional connection to other people. The Chinese equivalent for the additional Japanese meaning is 聯繫 (liánxi). Recently, the Chinese term can be used to refer to emotional bonds and is often seen in translated Japanese media (e.g. in manga, anime, etc.) as a translation of "kizuna" (絆).

Sources:

<http://baike.baidu.com/view/548563.htm>

<http://languagelog.ldc.upenn.edu/nll/?p=3666>

*Note 3: the first character has 3 other variants: 羈羈羈

拉麵/麵

March 12, 2012

Japanese Romaji: raamen

Japanese Meaning: ramen (Chinese-style noodles) / la mian (pulled noodles)

Parts:

ra(shida, hisha, hishi) - to crush / kidnap / Latin

men - noodles / wheat flour

*Note 1: in Japanese, ramen is more commonly written in katakana as ラーメン

Chinese Pinyin: lāmian

Chinese Meaning: lamian (pulled noodles) / ramen

Parts:

lā - to pull / to play (a bowed instrument) / to drag / seize / hold / lengthen / elongate / to draw (out) /
to chat / discharge

miàn - noodles / flour / dough

*Note 2: although they are named similarly, Japanese ramen and Chinese lamian are technically different noodle dishes as they are prepared differently. Japanese ramen is called 日本拉麵 (ribēn lāmian) in Chinese. Chinese lamian can be called ラーミエン (raamien) or ラーメン (raamen) in Japanese. Linguists aren't sure if the names "ramen" and "lamian" are etymologically related.

*Note 3: the second character has two more variants: 麩麩

描写/寫

March 13, 2012

Japanese Romaji: byousha

Japanese Meaning: depiction / description / portrayal / portrait

Parts:

byou(ega, ka, ga) - draw / paint / sketch / write / compose

sha(utsu, ja) - to copy / replicate / reproduce / transcribe / to photograph / be photographed / describe

Chinese Pinyin: miáoxiě

Chinese Meaning: to describe / to depict / to portray / description

Parts:

miáo - depict / to trace (a drawing) / to copy / sketch / to touch up / retouch

xiě - to write (with brush, pen, etc.) / draw / sketch / paint / compose (a literary or musical work) / represent / describe / depict (with words)

*Note 1: the simplified Chinese version of the second character is similar to the Japanese version, except the bottom horizontal stroke does not touch another stroke.

*Note 2: another variant of the second character is 寫

派兵

March 14, 2012

Japanese Romaji: hahei

Japanese Meaning: dispatch of troops / despatch of troops

Parts:

ha(pa) - clique / faction / group / party / school / sect / (political) wing

hei(tsuwamono, ikusa, hyou) - army / soldier / warrior / private (soldier) / troops / rank and file / strategy / tactics / warfare / war / battle / campaign / fight / war machine / weapon / strong man / exceptional person / man of courage / a brave and strong warrior / military ration / a stubborn person

Chinese Pinyin: pàibīng

Chinese Meaning: dispatch of troops / despatch of troops / deploy troops

Parts:

pài - clique / school / faction / group / school of thought / sect / political group / branch / tributary / river branches / to dispatch / to despatch / to send / to assign / apportion / to pass out / to appoint / the circular ratio $\pi = 3.1415926...$ / (loanword) pie / style / stylish / manner / air / counter for speeches, scenes, an atmosphere, etc.

bīng - soldiers / troops / servicemen / a force / an army / weapons / arms / military / warlike / strike / attack / pawn (in Chinese chess)

翻訳/譯

March 15, 2012

Japanese Romaji: hon'yaku

Japanese Meaning: translation / de-encryption / deciphering / rendering

Parts:

hon(kobo, hirugae, pon) - flip / turn over / change (mind) / flutter / wave

yaku(wake) - reason / cause / meaning / circumstances / situation / case / conclusion based on something read or heard / translation / translate / version (e.g. English)

Chinese Pinyin: fānyì

Chinese Meaning: to translate / to interpret / translator / interpreter / translation / interpretation

Parts:

fān - to turn over / to flip over / to overturn / turn upside-down / turn inside-out / to reverse / to capsize / to rummage through / to search / to look through / to translate / to decode / to double / to climb over / to climb into / to cross / to upset / to change / innovate / multiply / fall out / break up

yì - to translate / to interpret / paraphrase / decode / decipher / encode / encipher

*Note 1: I am using an apostrophe (') to separate certain syllables in the Japanese romaji of words. This is because in Japanese, the 'n' sound can appear with other hiragana as either a single syllable or as two separate syllables. にや, にゆ, and によ are pronounced "nya", "nyu", and "nyo" as one sound each respectively. んや, んゆ, and んよ are pronounced "n'ya", "n'yu", and "n'yo" as two sounds each respectively, and never appear at the beginning of words. Some Chinese pinyin will also have apostrophes to separate certain sounds.

*Note 2: another variant of the first character is 翻

悲泣

March 16, 2012

Japanese Romaji: hikyuu

Japanese Meaning: tears of grief / crying with sadness

Parts:

hi(kana) - sad / grieve / regret / deplore

kyuu(na) - cry / weep / moan

Chinese Pinyin: bēiqì

Chinese Meaning: to weep with grief

Parts:

bēi - sad / sadness / sorrow / grief / sorry / mournful / woeful / rueful / doleful

qì - to sob / cry / weep

*Note: either version of the first character can be used in Chinese. This is true for other characters with a “非” component.

青春

March 17, 2012

Japanese Romaji: seishun

Japanese Meaning: youth / adolescence / springtime of life

Parts:

sei(ao, shou) - blue / green / green light / black (horse coat color) / immature / unripe / young / inexperienced

shun(haru) - spring (season) / springtime / New Year / prime (of one's life, etc.) / adolescence / puberty / sexuality

Chinese Pinyin: qīngchūn

Chinese Meaning: youth / youthfulness / youthful days

Parts:

qīng - nature's color / green (plants, grass, etc.) / blue (sky, etc.) / azure / greenish black / black (hair, cloth, etc.) / youth / young (of people) / youthful / clear / crops / grass

chūn - spring (season) / springtime / joyful / gay / vitality / alive / living / life / youth / youthful / love / sensuality / lust / lustful / lewd / wanton / wine (especially in the Tang dynasty)

*Note 1: historically, Japanese and Chinese did not distinguish between the colors known in English as "blue" and "green". Both colors can be referred to as 青い (aoi) in Japanese and 青 (qīng) in Chinese. Today, the Chinese frequently use 藍 (lán) to refer to "blue" and 綠 (lǜ) to refer to "green". The Japanese can use 緑 (midori) or グリーン (guriin) to refer to "green", and ブルー (buruu) to refer to "blue".

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 靑. Two variants of the second character are 春 and 椿.

透視

March 18, 2012

Japanese Romaji: toushi

Japanese Meaning: seeing-through / X-ray / clairvoyance

Parts:

tou(su, too) - transparent / filter / penetrate / permeate

shi(mi) - see / visual / vision / look at / regards as / inspection

Chinese Pinyin: tòushì

Chinese Meaning: to see through / perspective / X-ray / fluoroscopy / clairvoyance

Parts:

tòu - transparent / to penetrate / to pass through / to seep through / thoroughly / fully / completely / to appear / to show / to look / reveal / divulge / leak out

shì - to look at / to inspect / observe / see / to watch / to show / to receive(present, etc.) / to regard / consider / take it for / look upon as / take as a model / imitate

*Note 1: this term has four possible distinct meanings: 1) to see through something, 2) fluoroscopy used in X-rays, 3) visual perspective, and 4) clairvoyance (ability to perceive things beyond the 5 human senses). An alternative term for visual perspective in Japanese is 遠近法 (enkinhou).

*Note 2: 4 variants of the second character are 視眈眈 視眈眈 視眈眈 視眈眈

専攻/専

March 19, 2012

Japanese Romaji: senkou

Japanese Meaning: academic major / special study

Parts:

sen(moppa) - specialty / exclusive / mainly / solely

kou(se, ze) - aggression / attack

Chinese Pinyin: zhuān'gōng

Chinese Meaning: to specialize in / to major in

Parts:

zhuān - special / focused on one thing / exclusive / for a particular person, occasion, purpose / expert / particular (to something) / concentrated / specialized / monopolize / take sole possession

gōng - to attack / to assault / to raid / to accuse / to charge / assail / criticize / to study / specialize in / work at / expert

帰途/歸

March 20, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kito

Japanese Meaning: on the way back / returning

Parts:

ki(kae) - homecoming / arrive at / lead to / result in

to(zu, michi) - road / route / way / street / path / course / lane / distance / the way / one's way / morals / teachings / dogma / field (of medicine, etc.) / subject / method / means

Chinese Pinyin: guītú

Chinese Meaning: the way back / one's journey home

Parts:

guī - to return / to go back to / to revert to / to give back to / (of a responsibility) to be taken care of by / to belong to / rest with / be in charge / come together / converge / to gather together / despite

tú - way / route / road / path / journey / course

*Note: the second character has another variant: 塗

巡航

March 21, 2012

Japanese Romaji: junkou

Japanese Meaning: cruise / cruising

Parts:

jun(megu) - go around / circumference / patrol / counter for tours, cycles, rounds, circuits, etc.

kou - cruise / to fly / navigate / to sail

Chinese Pinyin: xúnháng

Chinese Meaning: to cruise

Parts:

xún - to patrol / inspect / to make one's rounds / round (of drinks) / cruise / go on circuit

háng - boat / ship / vessel / craft / to navigate / to fly / to sail

*Note 1: as in English, this term can have multiple meanings, such as in "cruise ship", "cruising altitude", "cruise missile", "cruise control", etc.

*Note 2: the first character has one other variant: 巡

華麗

March 22, 2012

Japanese Romaji: karei

Japanese Meaning: splendor / splendour / magnificence

Parts:

ka(hana, kya, ke, ge) - beauty / gorgeous / luster / splendor / splendour / shine / gay / (the) best / flower / blossom / bloom / petal / cherry blossom / ikebana / (abbreviation) Japanese playing cards / ostentatious / showy

rei(ura, uruwa) - beautiful / graceful / lovely / resplendent

Chinese Pinyin: huáli

Chinese Meaning: magnificent / resplendent / gorgeous

Parts:

huá(huà) - magnificent / splendid / majestic / gorgeous / colorful / colourful / brilliant / bright / fine / beautiful / luxurious / illustrious / lustre / luster / brilliance / glory / splendour / splendor / flowery / prosperous / thriving / (abbreviation) China

lì - beautiful / magnificent / elegant / fine / lovely / pretty / fair

打撃/撃

March 23, 2012

Japanese Romaji: dageki

Japanese Meaning: blow / shock / strike / damage / batting (baseball)

Parts:

da(u, bu, daasu, chou) - hit / knock / pound / strike / dozen

geki(u) - to attack / to beat / to conquer / to defeat

Chinese Pinyin: dǎjī / dǎjí

Chinese Meaning: to hit / to strike / to attack / to impact / to crack down on something / a setback / a blow / percussion (music)

Parts:

dǎ(dá) - to beat / to strike / to hit / to attack / to break / to smash / to type / to mix up / to build / to fight / to fetch / to make / to do / to get / to buy / to tie up / to issue / to shoot / to calculate / to play (a game) / since / from / to / toward / dozen

jī(jí) - to hit / to strike / to beat / to break / to attack / to fight / bump into

*Note: this term can refer to a physical blow (punch, kick, etc.) or a metaphorical one (e.g. a blow to the industry)

曲率

March 24, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kyokuritsu

Japanese Meaning: curvature

Parts:

kyoku(kuse, kuma, ma, maga) - tune / piece of music / melody / composition / corner / nook / a recess / bend / crooked / curve / lean / fault / injustice / wrong / improper / indecent / a shadow / a shade / perverse / pleasure / long segment of a noh play forming its musical highlight

ritsu(hiki, sotsu) - rate / ratio / proportion / percentage / coefficient / factor / low-rank soldier

Chinese Pinyin: qūlǜ

Chinese Meaning: curvature

Parts:

qū(qǔ) - piece of music / sheet music / tune / song / bent / crooked / twisted / winding / wrong / false / unjustifiable / little known / obscure / a type of verse for singing, which emerged in the Southern Song and Jin dynasties and became popular in the Yuan dynasty

lǜ(shuài) - rate / ratio / proportion / limit / frequency / to lead / to command / to head / example / model / follow / obey / act in accordance with / rash / hasty / frank / straightforward / candid / generally / usually

*Note: 2 variants of the first character are 麴 and 麴. A variant of the second character is 率.

安静/静

March 25, 2012

Japanese Romaji: ansei

Japanese Meaning: rest / quiet / repose / peaceful

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 休息 (xiūxi)

Parts:

an(yasu) - cheap / low / contented / peaceful / quiet / relax / rested / (to be) rash / thoughtless / careless / indiscreet / frivolous

sei(shizu, jou) - quiet / peaceful

Chinese Pinyin: ānjìng

Chinese Meaning: quiet / peaceful / calm

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 静か (shizuka)

Parts:

ān - content / calm / still / quiet / tranquil / peaceful / safe / secure / stable / in good health / to find a place for / in install / to fix / to fit / to put / to place / to arrange / to bring (a charge against somebody) / to pacify / stabilize / stabilise / to console / security / safety / peace / ampere / how / why

jìng - still / calm / quiet / not moving / motionless / gentle / tranquility / silence / peaceful / harmonious / serene / virtuous / chaste

*Note 1: The Japanese term is used more often to refer to “resting in bed” or “taking a break” whereas the Chinese term is used more for “quietness” in general.

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

募集

March 26, 2012

Japanese Romaji: boshuu

Japanese Meaning: recruiting / taking applications / to raise (money) / to collect

Parts:

bo(tsuno) - enlist / to recruit / gather (contributions) / campaign / grow violent

shuu(atsu, taka, tsudo, juu) - gather / to meet / to swarm / to flock / congregate / collection / compilation

Chinese Pinyin: mùjí

Chinese Meaning: to recruit / enlist / to raise (money) / to collect / solicit

Parts:

mù - to recruit / enlist / to collect / to raise / to canvass for contributions / solicit / levy / summon

jí - assemble / to gather / to collect / concentrate / collected works / compile / edit / achievements / fair / periodical market / counter for sections of a TV series / episode

*Note 1: this term can be used to refer to recruiting people to something (i.e. gathering people), or raising funds for some cause (i.e. gathering money).

*Note 2: the second character has one other variant: 集

吸収/收

March 27, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kyuushuu

Japanese Meaning: absorption / suction / attraction / assimilation / merger

Parts:

kyuu(su) - inhale / sip / to suck in / imbibe

shuu(osa) - obtain / income / reap / pay / to store / supply

Chinese Pinyin: xīshōu

Chinese Meaning: to absorb / to suck up / to assimilate / to take in / to accept / to recruit / to ingest / to intake

Parts:

xī - to inhale / to breathe in / to suck in / to absorb / to draw in / attract / captivate / draw to oneself / soak up / suction / imbibe

shōu - to receive / to accept (a present, etc.) / take / to collect / to harvest / gather together / draw together / contain / end / come to a close / retrieve / take back / to put away / to restrain / withdraw / to stop / arrest / in care of (in addressing)

治療

March 28, 2012

Japanese Romaji: chiryou

Japanese Meaning: medical treatment / cure

Parts:

chi(osa, nao, ji) - be at peace / calm down / quell / heal / cure / subdue / conserve / government / reign
/ to rule

ryou - heal / cure

Chinese Pinyin: zhiliáo

Chinese Meaning: to treat (an illness) / to cure / a cure / medical treatment / therapy

Parts:

zhì - to rule / to govern / to regulate / to manage / to control / to administer / the seat of the local
government / to harness (a river) / cure / treatment / treat (disease) / to heal / study / research / punish
/ peaceful and orderly

liáo - to treat (disease) / to cure / therapy / heal / be healed / relieve / alleviate / cured / recover

*Note: a variant of the first character is 亂

習慣

March 29, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shuukan

Japanese Meaning: custom / habit / way / manners

Parts:

shuu(nara, juu) - learn

kan(na, nara) - accustomed / get used to / become experienced

Chinese Pinyin: xíguàn

Chinese Meaning: habit / custom / usual practice / to be used to

Parts:

xí - learn / to practice / to study / familiarize oneself with / receive training in / habit / follow / repeat /
flapping wings

guàn - habit / custom / habitually / usually / accustomed to / be used to / indulge / to spoil (a child) /
pamper

才能

March 30, 2012

Japanese Romaji: sainou

Japanese Meaning: talent / ability / capacity / aptitude

Parts:

sai(zai) - -years-old / genius / ability / gift / talent / aptitude

nou(yo) - ability / capacity / skill / talent / gift / function / noh (theatre)

*Note 1: in Japanese fonts, the first character is displayed differently, probably to distinguish it from the katakana 才 character.

Chinese Pinyin: cáinéng

Chinese Meaning: talent / ability / capacity / aptitude

Parts:

cái - ability / talent / natural abilities / gift / mental faculty / gifted person / talented person / somebody of a certain type / a capable individual / only / only then / just now / merely / certainly / indeed

néng - to be able to / to be capable of / can / may / permitted to / ability / capability / able / capable / talent / competence / can possibly

*Note 2: the first character in Chinese is also the simplified form of 纔 (cái), which means “a moment ago”.

*Note 3: the picture is of a blind man juggling knives while unicycling on a tightrope.

詳細

March 31, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shousai

Japanese Meaning: detailed / details / particulars

Parts:

shou(kuwa, tsumabi) - accurate / detailed / full / minute (adjective) / well-informed

sai(sasa, saza, koma, hoso, boso) - detail / details / slender / narrow / taper / get thin / narrowness / weak / small / little / fine / dainty / fine thread / hempen cord

Chinese Pinyin: xiángxì

Chinese Meaning: detailed / in detail / minute (adjective)

Parts:

xiáng - detailed / complete / thorough / minute (adjective) / comprehensive / known / clear / lucid / give details / to elaborate

xì - thin / slender / slim / tall but lean / finely particulate / thin and soft / fine / tiny / small / little / delicate (workmanship, etc.) / exquisite / precise / detailed / trifling / petty / quiet (sound) / frugal

*Note: a Chinese variant of the first character is 翔

閑談

April 1, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kandan

Japanese Meaning: quiet conversation / idle talk

Parts:

kan(shizu, hima) - leisure / spare time / free time / time off / day off / vacation / holiday / leave /
quitting (one's job) / firing someone / divorcing (spouse) / slow (business)
dan - discuss / talk

*Note 1: 長閑 (tranquil / calm / quiet / peaceful) is read as “nodoka”.

Chinese Pinyin: xiántán

Chinese Meaning: idle talk / empty gossip

Parts:

xián - to stay idle / idle time / to be unoccupied / not busy / leisure / enclosure / fence / barrier / railings
/ defend / guard / hinder / laws / regulations
tán - to speak / to talk / to converse / conversation / to chat / to discuss / gossip / what is said or talked
about

*Note 2: in Chinese, this word is a variant of 閒談

*Note 3: a variant of the first character is 閑. Another variant of the second character is 譚.

訓練/練

April 2, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kunren

Japanese Meaning: practice / practise / training

Parts:

kun(oshi, yo, kin) - read / explanation / instruction / native Japanese reading of a Chinese character

ren(ne) - practice / to train / drill / refine / gloss / polish /

Chinese Pinyin: xùnliàn

Chinese Meaning: to train / to drill / training / exercise

Parts:

xùn - example / pattern / to teach / to lecture / admonish / to train / instruction / instruct / teachings / lesson / exegesis / model / standard / example

liàn - to practise / to train / to drill / to perfect (one's skill) / exercise / skilled / experienced / seasoned / silk

接受

April 3, 2012

Japanese Romaji: setsuju

Japanese Meaning: receive / intercept

Parts:

setsu(tsu, ha) - adjoin / contact / piece together / touch

ju(u, uke) - accept / get / receive / catch / take / answer (phone) / undergo / (Buddhism) vedana (sensation)

Chinese Pinyin: jiēshòu

Chinese Meaning: to accept / to receive / take on / undertake

Parts:

jiē - to receive / to accept / take with the hand / to answer (the phone) / to meet / to welcome somebody / to connect / to catch / to join / to extend / to continue / graft / to take one's turn on duty / to take over for somebody / come close to / make contact with / succeed to

shòu - to receive / to accept / to get / to suffer / subjected to / to bear / to stand (against something) / to tolerate / endure / to take / be pleasant to (the ears, etc.) / (preceding a verb to form a passive voice)

*Note 1: the Chinese term is used more often to refer to acceptance of intangible things (invitations, advice, apologies, fate, etc.) rather than for accepting physical objects (such as gifts).

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 攬

承認

April 4, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shounin

Japanese Meaning: recognition / acknowledgement / acknowledgment / approval / consent / agreement

Parts:

shou(uketamawa, u, jou) - acquiesce / be informed / hear / listen to / receive / second line of a four-line Chinese poem

nin(shitata, mito) - acknowledge / appreciate / believe / discern / recognize / witness

*Note: “uketamawa” is one of the longest Japanese readings for any kanji. The only other one with the same length is 志 (kokorozashi), which means “intention”, “will”, or “motive”.

Chinese Pinyin: chéngrèn

Chinese Meaning: to recognize (diplomatically, artistically, etc.) / to concede / to admit / to acknowledge / recognition

Parts:

chéng - to bear / to carry / to hold / to support / to undertake / contract (to do a job) / inherit / to continue / to carry on / to take charge / owing to / indebted to / obliged to / take an order / receive an instruction / due to / to receive / to succeed / be granted a favor

rèn - to recognize / to know / understand / make something out / identify / to admit / acknowledge / own / agree / accept / resign oneself to / enter into a certain relationship with / adopt / promise to do something / offer or undertake to do something / subscribe

検討/檢

April 5, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kentou

Japanese Meaning: consideration / examination / investigation / study / research / scrutiny / discussion

Parts:

ken - examination / investigate

tou(u) - attack / chastise / conquer / defeat / destroy

Chinese Pinyin: jiǎntǎo

Chinese Meaning: to examine / to inspect / self-criticism / review

Parts:

jiǎn - to check / to examine / to inspect / check up / collate / discuss thoroughly / form / pattern / to exercise restraint / restrict / regulate / book label / sort / gather

tǎo - to discuss / to study / examine into / research / to demand for / to ask for / to beg / to dun / to provoke / quell / suppress / to denounce / to condemn / to send armed forces to suppress / to invite / incur / to court / to marry (a woman) / get married

差異

April 6, 2012

Japanese Romaji: sai

Japanese Meaning: difference / disparity

Parts:

sa(za) - difference / discrepancy / distinction / margin / variation / balance

i(ke, koto) - difference (of opinion) / different / strange / odd / curious / queerness / strangeness / uncommon / unusual / wonderful / extraordinary

Chinese Pinyin: chāyì

Chinese Meaning: difference / discrepancy

Parts:

chā(chà, chāi, cī) - difference / different / discrepancy / to differ / difference (math) / to fall short of / lacking / want / not up to standard / poor / error / to err / wrong / to make a mistake / inferior / worse / nearly / almost / to send / to dispatch / to commission / messenger / mission / one's duty / official assignment / an officer / uneven / irregular

yì - different / variant / other / hetero- / unusual / strange / foreign / surprising / marvel / wonder / to distinguish / to separate / come apart / part / to discriminate

軍医/醫

April 7, 2012

Japanese Romaji: gun'i

Japanese Meaning: military physician or surgeon

Parts:

gun(ikusa) - army / force / troops / battle / war / campaign / fight

i(kusushi) - doctor / medicine (vocational) / the healing art / healing / curing

Chinese Pinyin: jūnyī

Chinese Meaning: military doctor

Parts:

jūn - army / military / soldiers / troops / forces / of national defence / corps / arms / armed service

yī - medical / medicine (vocational) / doctor / surgeon / physician / to cure / to treat / heal / medical science / medical service

*Note: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

困惑

April 8, 2012

Japanese Romaji: konwaku

Japanese Meaning: bewilderment / disturbance

Parts:

kon(koma) - annoyed / become distressed / quandary

waku(mado) - delusion / perplexity / beguile

Chinese Pinyin: kùnhuò

Chinese Meaning: bewildered / perplexed / confused / difficult problem / perplexity / puzzled

Parts:

kùn - to trap / to surround / to be surrounded / besiege / encircle / hard-pressed / stranded / afflicted / destitute / difficult / hard / sleepy / tired out / exhausted

huò - to confuse / mislead / baffle / delude / doubt / to be puzzled / bewildered

*Note: in Chinese, the first character is also the simplified form of 困 (kùn): to be sleepy.

残骸/殘

April 9, 2012

Japanese Romaji: zangai

Japanese Meaning: ruins / wreckage

Parts:

zan(noko, gori) - remaining / remainder / leftover / excess / balance

gai(mukuro) - bone / corpse / body

Chinese Pinyin: cánhái

Chinese Meaning: remains / wreckage

Parts:

cán - to destroy / to spoil / to ruin / broken / to damage / to injure / to torture / cruel / oppressive /
savage / barbarous / brutal / incomplete / defective / withered / disabled / to remain / to survive /
remnant / remaining / leftover / surplus

hái - bones of the body / skeleton / body / leg bone / shinbone

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the first character is almost the same as the simplified version of the Chinese character. The simplified Chinese version has one less stroke in the group of three in the right component.

*Note 2: the picture is of the Roman Forum in Rome, Italy.

郵政

April 10, 2012

Japanese Romaji: yuusei

Japanese Meaning: postal system

Parts:

yuu - mail / stagecoach shop

sei(matsurigoto, man, shou) - government / politics / rule

Chinese Pinyin: yóuzhèng

Chinese Meaning: postal system / postal service / postal

Parts:

yóu - post (office) / mail / remit / postal / deliver mail / postage stamp

zhèng - political affairs / politics / political power / government / administration / management /
administrative affairs of a government department / affairs of a family or an organization

休止

April 11, 2012

The Kanji of the Day project will be on hiatus while I focus on my Japan trip. It will return on July 8, 2012.

Japanese Romaji: kyuushi

Japanese Meaning: pause / cessation / rest / suspension

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 暫停 (zàntíng)

Parts:

kyuu(yasu) - rest / retire / sleep / day off / vacation

shi(sa, todo, to, do, ya, yo) - halt / stop

Chinese Pinyin: xiūzhǐ

Chinese Meaning: to stop / to cease / caesura

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 停止 (teishi), also used in Chinese (tíngzhǐ)

Parts:

xiū - to rest / to stop doing something for a period of time / to cease / stop / give up / retire / happiness / joy / weal / do not! / off

zhǐ - to stop / to prohibit / until / only / halt / desist / detain / deportment / still / calm / stagnant / rest in / stay / come to / arrive at

*Note: the Chinese term means to stop completely with little chance of a restart (e.g. a dormant volcano), whereas the Japanese term means to stop temporarily (e.g. suspended train service).

継続/繼續

July 8, 2012

Japanese Romaji: keizoku

Japanese Meaning: continuation

Parts:

kei(tsu, mama) - inherit / to succeed (someone) / patch / graft (tree)

zoku(tsu, tsudzu, shoku) - continue / continuation / sequel / series

Chinese Pinyin: jìxù

Chinese Meaning: to continue / to proceed with / to go on with / to persist

Parts:

jì - to continue / to follow after / to go on with / to maintain / to carry on / to succeed / to inherit / then / afterwards

xù - to continue / to replenish / carry on / succeed

広角/廣

July 8, 2012

Japanese Romaji: koukaku

Japanese Meaning: wide-angle

Parts:

kou(hiro, biro) - broad / spacious / wide / vast

kaku(kado, sumi, tsuno) - angle / corner (e.g. desk, pavement) / edge / square (or cube) / bishop (shogi) / third degree (of the Japanese & Chinese pentatonic scale) / Chinese "horn" constellation (one of the 28 mansions) / jiao (monetary unit of China; one-tenth of a yuan) / antlers / horn / nook / recess

*Note 1: the term 一角獣 (ikkakujuu, literally meaning "one-horned beast") can refer to either a unicorn, a narwhal, or a qilin (Chinese mythical beast). Each creature is more commonly known as ユニコーン (yuniko-n), イッカク (ikkaku), and 麒麟 (kirin) respectively. キリン (kirin) is also the Japanese word for "giraffe" and the name of a brand of beer.

Chinese Pinyin: guǎngjiǎo

Chinese Meaning: wide-angle / panoramic / panorama / (figurative) wide perspective

Parts:

guǎng - wide / broad / extensive / spacious / numerous / to spread / stretch / extend

jiǎo(jué) - angle / corner / direction / point / horn of an animal / antler / antenna / feeler / bugle / horn / horn-shaped thing / promontory / cape / a tenth of a dollar / unit of money equal to 0.1 yuan / dime / role (theatre) / character / part / actor / to compete / to contest / contend / wrestle / ancient three-legged wine vessel / third note of pentatonic scale

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 腳, which is also a separate Chinese character

保存

July 9, 2012

Japanese Romaji: hozon

Japanese Meaning: preservation / conservation / storage / saving (e.g. a computer file) / maintenance

Parts:

ho(tamo, po, hou) - keep / preserve / protect / support / sustain / guarantee

zon(son) - believe / be aware of / feel / suppose

Chinese Pinyin: bǎocún

Chinese Meaning: to conserve / to preserve / to keep / to save (e.g. a computer file)

Parts:

bǎo - to defend / to protect / to safeguard / to guard / to shelter / to care / be responsible / to insure /
to guarantee / to maintain / to hold / to keep / waiter / a tender / Bulgaria

cún - to exist / to live / to be / survive / remain / to deposit / to store / to keep

輪番

July 9, 2012

Japanese Romaji: rinban

Japanese Meaning: sequence / turn / rotation

Parts:

rin(wa) - circle / loop / ring / hoop / wheel / link / circle (of friends) / counter for wheels and flowers

ban(tsuga) - (one's) turn / number in a series / -th (ordinal numbers) / watch / guard / lookout / bout / match (sports) / joint / hinge / a pair / couple / brace

Chinese Pinyin: lúnfān

Chinese Meaning: in turn / one after another

Parts:

lún - wheel / disk / ring / steamship / to take turns / to rotate / revolve / by turn / in relays / recur / alternate / majestic / stately / counter for big round objects, rounds in competitions, discussions, recurring events

fān - to take turns / a turn / a time / to repeat / order in a series / (when used after a verb) times or fold / a time / a kind of / a sort of / guard / barbarians / foreign / foreigner / ethnic groups from outside China / counter for the number of iterations of an action or deed

汗顔/顔

July 10, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kangan

Japanese Meaning: ashamed

Parts:

kan(ase) - sweat / perspire / perspiration / moisture / condensation

gan(kao, gao, kanbase) - face (person) / expression / honor (honour) / dignity / reputation / (archaism)
countenance, visage

Chinese Pinyin: hàn yán

Chinese Meaning: to blush with shame (literary)

Parts:

hàn(hán) - sweat / perspiration / to be speechless (from embarrassment, helplessness, etc.) (internet slang used as an interjection)

yán - face / facial appearance / facial expression / countenance / color / pigment / paint / prestige / dignity / reputation / honor / honour

*Note: 顔色 (kaoiro) means “expression of one’s face” or “complexion” in Japanese, whereas 顏色 (yánsè) generally means “color” (red, orange, yellow, etc.) in Chinese.

当然/當

July 10, 2012

Japanese Romaji: touzen

Japanese Meaning: as a matter of course / natural / of course / proper / propriety

Parts:

tou(a, masa, dou) - appropriate / hit / right / himself / this (business organisation or place)

zen(sa, shika, nen) - if so / in that case / so / well / sort of thing / -like / yeah / uh-huh

Chinese Pinyin: dāngrán

Chinese Meaning: only natural / as it should be / certainly / of course / without doubt / surely

Parts:

dāng(dàng) - to be / to act as / manage / withstand / to bear / accept / undertake / assume (responsibilities) / take responsibility / be in charge / preside / control / work as / serve as / face / when / during / at a certain time or place / while / ought / should / must / well-matched / match equally / equal / be commensurate with / same / obstruct / hold back / block / be in somebody's presence / just at (a time or place) / in the very same (place, year, day, etc.) / on the spot / right / just at / at, in, or on (that very moment/day/month/year) / at or in the very same... / suitable / adequate / fitting / proper / appropriate / right (correct) / to replace / to regard as / to take as / to take for / treat as / consider as / to think / to pawn / mortgage / pledge / mistake something for another / (colloquial) to fail (a student)
rán - correct / right / yes / (most) certainly / so / thus / like this / -ly / pledge / promise / permission / however / but / still / nevertheless / on the other hand / really / if so

*Note: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character and of 當 A variant of the second character is 狀

探索

July 11, 2012

Japanese Romaji: tansaku

Japanese Meaning: search / lookup / hunt / (item of) research / exploration / investigation

Parts:

tan(saga, sagu) - search / look for / grope

saku - cord / rope

Chinese Pinyin: tànsuǒ

Chinese Meaning: to explore / to probe / quest

Parts:

tàn - to explore / to search out / to find / to locate / to scout / to watch / to spy / investigate / try /
venture / tempt / attempt / test / to visit / to stretch forward / stick out / grope for

suǒ - to search / look for / explore / to demand / claim / to exact / to ask / inquire / large rope / cable /
rules / laws / isolated / alone / lonely / dull / insipid / uninteresting / tighten / squeeze / twist / Somalia

夫妻

July 11, 2012

Japanese Romaji: fusai

Japanese Meaning: husband and wife / married couple / Mr. and Mrs.

Parts:

fu(otto, sore, tsuma, fuu, bu) - husband / man / wife / spouse / consort

sai(tsuma) - spouse / wife / (archaism) dear (formerly used by romantically linked men and women to refer to one another) / garnish (esp. one served with sashimi) / embellishment

Chinese Pinyin: fūqī

Chinese Meaning: husband and wife / married couple

Parts:

fū(fú, fu) - husband / man / male adult / manual worker / labourer / master / (archaism) conscripted labourer / (classical) this, that, those, he, she, they / (exclamatory final particle) / (initial particle, introduces an opinion, topic, subject)

qī(qì) - wife / to marry off (a daughter)

*Note: a variant of the first character is 伕

調査/査

July 12, 2012

Japanese Romaji: chousa

Japanese Meaning: investigation / examination / inspection / inquiry / enquiry / survey

Parts:

chou(shira, totono) - investigate / prepare / exorcise / pitch / tone / key (in music) / tune / time / tempo / mood / meter / tendency / writing style / (archaism) tax on products

sa - investigate

Chinese Pinyin: diàochá

Chinese Meaning: investigation / inquiry / to investigate / to survey / survey / (opinion) poll

Parts:

diào(tiáo) - to investigate / to enquire into / inquire into / accent / view / argument / to transfer / to shift / to move (troops or cadres) / change / key (in music) / mode (music) / tune / tone / melody / to harmonize / harmonious / fit / to reconcile / to blend / to mix / to suit well / regulate / adjust / mediate / to season (food) / to provoke / to incite / tease

chá(zhā) - to investigate / inspect / to research / to check / to examine / to refer to / to search / seek into / look into / consult / look up

宇宙

July 12, 2012

Japanese Romaji: uchuu

Japanese Meaning: universe / cosmos / outer space

Parts:

u(noki) - roof / house / eaves / heaven / counter for buildings

chuu - space / air / midair / sky / interval of time / memorization

Chinese Pinyin: yǔzhòu

Chinese Meaning: universe / cosmos / outer space / macrocosm

Parts:

yǔ - house / building / structure / eaves / room / universe / space / look / appearance / countenance

zhòu - universe / time as concept / infinite time / eternity

資産/産

July 13, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shisan

Japanese Meaning: property / fortune / means / assets

Parts:

shi - assets / capital / funds / resources / contribute to / be conducive to / data

san(ubu, u, mu) - innocent / naïve / unsophisticated / inexperienced / (giving) birth / childbirth / delivery / confinement / assets / property / fortune / yield / native of / product of

Chinese Pinyin: zīchǎn

Chinese Meaning: property / assets / capital

Parts:

zī - resources / capital / property / wealth / money / expense / fees / charges / to provide / to supply / to support / aid / help / assist / subsidize / natural endowments / natural gifts / one's disposition / one's qualifications

chǎn - to give birth / to reproduce / bear (offspring) / breed / to produce / bring forth / product / manufacture / yield / resource / estate / property / wealth / possessions

兼任

July 13, 2012

Japanese Romaji: ken'nin

Japanese Meaning: concurrent post / to hold two posts concurrently

Parts:

ken(ka) - and / concurrently / in addition / -cum-

nin(maka) - obligation / duty / charge / responsibility / appoint / entrust to / term

Chinese Pinyin: jiānrèn

Chinese Meaning: to hold several jobs at once / concurrent post / working part-time

Parts:

jiān - double / twice / simultaneous / concurrently / holding two or more posts at the same time / unite / combined / double as / connect / and / in addition

rèn - responsibility / to assign / to appoint / nominate / to take up a post / assume (a position) / hold / to bear / duty / official post / office / term / to let / trust to / rely on / to allow / to give free reign to / no matter (what, how, etc.)

揭示/掲

July 14, 2012

Japanese Romaji: keiji

Japanese Meaning: notice / bulletin / post / posting / placard

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 公报 (gōngbào), 布告 (bùgào)

Parts:

kei(kaka) - describe / display / put up (a notice) / hang out / hoist / publish

ji(shime, shi) - display / express / indicate / point out / show

Chinese Pinyin: jiēshì

Chinese Meaning: to show / to make known / to show off

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 明らかにする (akiraka ni suru)

Parts:

jiē - to expose / to unmask / open / to take the lid off / lift up / raise / lift / hoist

shì - to show / to reveal / manifest / demonstrate / indicate / make known / notify / notice / instruct

群島

July 14, 2012

Japanese Romaji: guntou

Japanese Meaning: island group / archipelago

Parts:

gun(mu, mura) - group (of people, animals, etc.) / cluster / flock / crowd / herd / swarm / a gathering / (mathematical) group

tou(shima, jima) - island / Island (in placenames) / territory (of a prostitute, organized crime gang, etc.) / turf

Chinese Pinyin: qúndǎo

Chinese Meaning: island group / archipelago

Parts:

qún - group / crowd / multitude / multitudinous / mob / mass / numerous / flock / herd / pack / swarm

dǎo - island / isle

*Note: a variant of the first character is 羣 Variants of the second character include 羣 and 羣, which are used in some Japanese names. Other variants of the second character are 羣羣

協定

July 15, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kyoutei

Japanese Meaning: agreement / arrangement / pact

Parts:

kyou - cooperation / co-

tei(sada, jou) - decide / determine / establish / fix

Chinese Pinyin: xiédìng

Chinese Meaning: agreement / protocol / convention / accord

Parts:

xié - to cooperate / to harmonize / bring into harmony / be united / coordinate / agree / agreement / to help / to assist / to aid / to join

dìng - to set / to fix / settle / to determine / to decide / definite / sure / surely / certainly / definitely / stable / calm / composed / remain / to order / to book / to subscribe / deposit / downpayment

*Note: 3 variants of the first character are 協 協 叶

振幅

July 15, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shinpuku

Japanese Meaning: amplitude (of vibration) / swing of pendulum

Parts:

shin(fu, bu) - shake / swing / wag / wave

puku(haba, fuku) - width / breadth / apron / edge of things / hanging scroll / counter for scrolls, paintings, etc.

Chinese Pinyin: zhènfú

Chinese Meaning: amplitude

Parts:

zhèn - to shake / to flap / to vibrate / to resonate / wield / raise / to rise up with spirit / to rouse oneself / excite / arouse action / cheer up

fú - width / piece / strip / breadth / range / margin / hem / roll / counter for textiles or pictures

停泊

July 16, 2012

Japanese Romaji: teihaku

Japanese Meaning: anchorage / moorings

Parts:

tei(chou, to, todo) - halt / stopping

haku(to, paku) - overnight / put up at / 3-day stay / counter for nights of a stay

Chinese Pinyin: tíngbó

Chinese Meaning: to anchor / anchorage / mooring (of a ship) / berth

Parts:

tíng - to stop / to halt / cease / to park (a car) / berth (a ship) / delay / pause / suspend / stopover / stay / suitable

bó(pō) - to anchor (a vessel) / to moor / berth / touch at / stay for a time / tranquil and modest / lake / body of water

謙讓/讓

July 16, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kenjou

Japanese Meaning: modesty / humility

Parts:

ken(herikuda) - be modest / humble oneself / self-effacing / condescend

jou(yuzu) - allow / permit / yield / concede / convey / deter / transfer / turnover

Chinese Pinyin: qiānràng

Chinese Meaning: modest / modesty / to modestly decline

Parts:

qiān - modest / humble / unassuming

ràng - to yield / to permit / concede / give way / give ground / transfer / convey / turn over / let / allow / to let somebody do something / to have somebody do something / make way / step aside / by (used as passive signifier)

*Note: in Japanese, there are two types of polite speech which are used around people such as supervisors, bosses, customers, guests, etc. Honorific language (尊敬語, sonkeigo) is used when talking about superiors or customers. Humble language (謙讓語, kenjougo) is used when referring to oneself and often implies doing something for the benefit of another person. They are collectively known as “respectful language” (敬語, keigo). For example, the plain form of the verb “to do” is する (suru), the honorific form is なさいます (nasaimasu), and the humble form is 致します (itashimasu).

激励/勵

July 17, 2012

Japanese Romaji: gekirei

Japanese Meaning: encouragement

Parts:

geki(hage) - extremely / get excited / incite / violent / enraged / chafe

rei(hage) - be diligent / encourage / inspire

Chinese Pinyin: jīlì

Chinese Meaning: to encourage / to urge / motivation / incentive / to inspire / to stimulate

Parts:

jī - to arouse / to incite / to excite / to stimulate / stir up / sharp / strong / fierce / violent / heated / irritate / provoke / madden / quickly / (of water, etc.) surge, swash, dash / (Cantonese) brilliant, great, cool

lì - to encourage / to urge / strive for / incite / exert oneself

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: the character is wearing a “hachimaki” with the kanji “必勝 (hisshou)”, meaning “certain victory”.

後悔/悔

July 17, 2012

Japanese Romaji: koukai

Japanese Meaning: regret / repentance

Parts:

kou(ato, ushi, ushiro, oku, shiri, nochi, go) - the back / behind / rear / later / after / afterwards / soon / since / remainder / the rest / descendant / descendent / successor / heir / after one's death / more (i.e. five more minutes) / (archaism) past, previous / future / buttocks / rump / bottom / undersurface / last place / end / consequence

kai(ku, kuya, ge) - regret / repent

Chinese Pinyin: hòuhuǐ

Chinese Meaning: to regret / to repent / remorse

Parts:

hòu - at the back of / behind / rear / afterwards / come after / later / descendant / descendent / posterity / an auxiliary verb to indicate 'then' or 'afterwards'

huǐ - to regret / repent / show remorse

*Note: the simplified Chinese version of the first character (后) is also a separate traditional character.

純真

July 18, 2012

Japanese Romaji: junshin

Japanese Meaning: purity (of mind or intentions) / sincerity / innocence

Parts:

jun - genuine / purity / pure / innocence / innocent / chaste / naïve / net (profit)

shin(ma, makoto) - true / truth / reality / genuineness / genuine / real / seriousness / just / right / due (east) / pure / accurate / printed style writing / (abbreviation) star performer / Buddhist sect

Chinese Pinyin: chúnzhēn

Chinese Meaning: pure / sincere

Parts:

chún - pure / genuine / simple / unmixed / clean / unadulterated / purely / entirely / completely / skillful / practiced / well-versed

zhēn - really / truly / factual / indeed / real / true / genuine / actual / substantial / the highest sincerity
one is capable of

*Note: a variant of the second character is 眞

謝恩

July 18, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shaon

Japanese Meaning: (expression of) gratitude

Parts:

sha(ayama) - thank / apologize / refuse

on - benefit / blessing / favor / favour / obligation / debt of gratitude / goodness / grace / kindness /
mercy

Chinese Pinyin: xiè'ēn

Chinese Meaning: to thank somebody for favor (especially emperor or superior official)

Parts:

xiè - to thank / to apologize / to decline / to wither (flowers, leaves, etc.) / fade

ēn - favor / favour / grace / gratitude / kindness / mercy / charity

処罰/處

July 19, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shobatsu

Japanese Meaning: punishment

Parts:

sho(ko, tokoro, do) - place / spot / point in time / scene / site / address / locality / district / area / one's house / point / part / space / room / about to / on the verge of / behave / act / deal with / dispose / manage / condemn / sentence

batsu(bachi) - penalty / punishment / retribution / curse

*Note: Although normally written in hiragana, the Japanese words which indicate position (どこ、ここ、そこ、あそこ; doko, koko, soko, asoko; where, here, there, way over there) can be written with kanji and the common "ko" is written as 処.

Chinese Pinyin: chǔfá

Chinese Meaning: to penalize / to punish

Parts:

chǔ(chù) - place / location / spot / point / office / department / bureau / respect / locale / to reside / to live / to dwell / to be in / to be situated at / to stay / to get along with / to be in a position of / to deal with / manage / handle / settle / dispose of / to discipline / to punish / virginal / a particular quality, mark, feature, point, or part / counter for locations or items of damage

fá - to punish / to penalize / penalty / fine / penance

評価/價

July 19, 2012

Japanese Romaji: hyouka

Japanese Meaning: valuation / estimation / assessment / evaluation / recognition / to appreciate / to value highly

Parts:

hyou(pyou) - evaluate / criticism / comment / commentary / a council

ka(atai) - price / cost / value / worth / merit / variable (computing)

Chinese Pinyin: píngjià

Chinese Meaning: evaluation / assessment / appreciation / appraisal / to evaluate / to assess / to estimate

Parts:

píng - to discuss / to comment / to criticize / review / assess / to judge / appraise / evaluate / to choose (by public appraisal)

jià(jie) - price / value / valence (on an atom) / great / good / middleman / servant

違憲

July 20, 2012

Japanese Romaji: iken

Japanese Meaning: unconstitutionality

Parts:

i(tagu, chiga) - differ / difference

ken - constitution / law

Chinese Pinyin: wéixiàn

Chinese Meaning: unconstitutional

Parts:

wéi - to disobey / to violate / to separate / to go against / defy / be apart from / to part / leave / be separated

xiàn - constitution / statute / law / code / ordinance / intelligent / reference to superiors

宣誓

July 20, 2012

Japanese Romaji: sensei

Japanese Meaning: oath / pledge / abjuration

Parts:

sen - announce / proclaim / say

sei(chika, ze) - pledge / swear / vow

Chinese Pinyin: xuānshì

Chinese Meaning: to make a vow / to swear an oath (of office)

Parts:

xuān - to declare / to announce / to proclaim / propagate / circulate

shì - oath / vow / to pledge / to swear

供給

July 21, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kyoukyuu

Japanese Meaning: supply / provision

Parts:

kyou(sona, tomo, domo, ku, kuu, gu) - companion / follower / attendant / servant / retinue / entourage / accompany / offer / to present / serve (meal) / submit

kyuu(tama) - salary / wage / recompense / allow / bestow on / gift / grant

Chinese Pinyin: gōngjǐ

Chinese Meaning: to provide / to furnish / supply (as in supply and demand)

Parts:

gōng(gòng) - to provide / to supply / to furnish / to confess / own up / confession / sacrificial offering / present offerings

jǐ(gěi) - to provide / to supply / provisions / supplies / to award / approve / grant / sufficiency / affluence / glib / eloquent / to / for / by / for the benefit of / to give / to allow / let / to do something (for somebody) / (used to indicate a passive meaning of voice)

快速

July 21, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kaisoku

Japanese Meaning: high-speed / express (train) / fast / mobility / celebrity

Parts:

kai(kokoroyo) - agreeable / cheerful / comfortable / pleasant / pleasure / delight / enjoyment

soku(sumi, haya) - fast / quick / speed / gear (as in 4 speed automatic transmission and such)

Chinese Pinyin: kuàisù

Chinese Meaning: high-speed / fast / rapid / turbo

Parts:

kuài - rapid / quick / quickly / speedy / fast / speed / rate / soon / hasty / prompt / almost / nearly / near / to make haste / hurry up / clever / sharp (of knives or wits) / quick-witted / ingenious / keen /

forthright / plain-spoken / honest / straightforward / gratified / pleased / pleasant / happy / make happy / pleasurable / used in combination

sù - fast / rapid / quick / prompt / speedy / velocity / rapidity / speed / invite / court

応急/應

July 22, 2012

Japanese Romaji: oukyuu

Japanese Meaning: emergency / first-aid

Parts:

ou(ira, kota, nou) - accept / agreement / affirmative / OK / yes / answer / reply / respond / return / apply

kyuu(iso, se) - urgent / sudden / abrupt / hurry / rapid / swift / fast / hurrying / haste / emergency / crisis / steep / sharp / precipitous

Chinese Pinyin: yìngjí

Chinese Meaning: emergency / to respond to an emergency / to meet a contingency

Parts:

yìng(yīng) - to answer / to respond / reply / echo / to comply with / confirm / to suit / to deal or cope with / to handle / to agree (to do something) / should / ought to / must / need / promise / consent / grant / accept

jí - urgent / pressing / hurried / desperate / rapid / quick / quickly / hurried / worried / anxious / very eager / to make (somebody) anxious

将棋/將

July 22, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shougi

Japanese Meaning: shōgi (Japanese chess) / any shogi variant / any chess variant

Parts:

shou(masa) - admiral / commander / a general / leader / from now on / and again / just about / or / soon

gi(go, ki) - chess piece / Japanese chess (shogi) / Go (board game of capturing territory)

Chinese Pinyin: jiàngqí

Chinese Meaning: shōgi (Japanese chess)

Parts:

jiàng(jiāng, qiāng) - a general / admiral / military leader of high rank / high-ranking officer / commander-in-chief (military) / to command / to lead / command (troops) / king (chess piece) / backbone / athlete / sportsman / will / be going to / future / be about to / shall / to use / to take / to checkmate / check! / just a short while ago / (introduces object of main verb, used in the same way as 把) / (used as a disposal marker very similar to 把) / to desire / to invite / to request / nourish / support / take care of / mystery

qí - chess or any board game / chess-like game / any game similar to chess / a game of chess / chess piece / chessman

*Note 1: on computers, the Japanese version of the first character and the simplified Chinese version are rendered the same way. However, they are written differently by hand.

*Note 2: the second character has a variant (碁) used mostly in Japan as a separate character. For this project, I am counting 碁 and 棋 as two characters. Two other variants of the second character are 碁 and 碁.

*Note 3: these kanji can reference at least 4 other different types of board games. Chinese chess is known as 象棋 (Xiàngqí) in Chinese and シャンチー (shanchii) in Japanese. Western chess is known as 西洋棋 (Xīyángqí) in Chinese and チェス (chesu) in Japanese. Korean chess (Janggi) is known as 將棋 (jiàngqí) in Chinese and チャンギ (change) in Japanese. Go is known as 圍棋 (wéiqí) in Chinese and 囲碁 (igo) in Japanese.

競技

July 23, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kyougi

Japanese Meaning: game / match / contest

Parts:

kyou(kiso, kura, se, kei) - contest / match / bout / race / compete with / competing / competition / bid /
sell at auction / auction / emulate

gi(waza) - ability / skill / vocation / feat / performance / art / technique / arts / craft

Chinese Pinyin: jìngjì

Chinese Meaning: competition of skill (e.g. sports) / athletics tournament

Parts:

jìng - to compete / to contend / to struggle / vie / contest

jì - skill / ability / talent / ingenuity / trick / technique / dexterity

先祖

July 23, 2012

Japanese Romaji: senzo

Japanese Meaning: ancestor

Parts:

sen(saki, ma) - previous / prior / former / old / some time ago / preceding / point (e.g. of a pencil) / tip / end / nozzle / head (of a line) / front / ahead / the other side / before / precedence / future / hereafter / destination / the other party / first move / opening move / sequel

zo(so) - ancestor / founder / pioneer / forefather / progenitor

Chinese Pinyin: xiānzǔ

Chinese Meaning: ancestry / deceased grandfather

Parts:

xiān - early / prior / former / previous / preceding / antecedent / before / earlier / early on / in advance / first / lead / initiative / foremost / leading / pioneering / initiating / temporarily / for the time being / for now / the late... / the deceased... / one's forebears / elder generation / ancestor / forefather

zǔ - ancestor / forefather / foremother / forebear / grandparents / grandfather / grandmother / founder / originator / progenitor / follow the example / imitate

*Note: a variant of the second character is 祖

压倒/壓

July 24, 2012

Japanese Romaji: attou

Japanese Meaning: overwhelm / overpower / overwhelming

Parts:

atsu(o, he) - dominate / oppress / overwhelm / pressure / push / force

tou(saka, tao, dao, dou) - break down / collapse / drop / fall / overthrow

Chinese Pinyin: yādǎo

Chinese Meaning: to overwhelm / to overpower / overwhelming

Parts:

yā(yà) - to press / to push down / to keep under (control) / oppress / to weigh down / pressure / force / suppress / quell / subdue / control / restrain / calm down / prevail over / outdo / surpass / approach / close in on / draw near / in the first place / to crush / lay aside / pigeonhole / shelve

dǎo(dào) - to fall / fall over / to collapse / to topple / to fail / to go bankrupt / to overthrow / be spoiled / malfunction / to change (trains or buses) / to move around / shift / exchange / lie down / take turns / to sell / to speculate (buying and selling) / profiteer / to place upside-down / to invert / inverted / reverse / upside down / inverse / to pour out / to tip / to throw out / to dump (garbage) / to move backwards / turn back / however / actually / as a matter of fact / contrary to expectation / unexpectedly / (indicating contradiction) just / merely / only / (indicating concession) although / but / all right / (indicating impatience) after all

煎餅

July 24, 2012

Japanese Romaji: senbei

Japanese Meaning: rice cookie / wafer / Japanese cracker

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 仙貝 (xiānbèi)

Parts:

sen(i) - boil / broil / parch / roast

bei(mochi, hei, pei) - mochi rice cake (sticky rice cake)

Chinese Pinyin: jiānbǐng

Chinese Meaning: thin pancake (see note)

Chinese to Japanese Translation: パンケーキ (pankeiki) or 煎餅 (senbei)

Parts:

jiān - to pan fry / pan-fried / to sauté / boil in water / fry in fat or oil / decoct / torment, kill (figuratively)

bǐng - cookie / biscuits / cake / pastry / pancake / round flat cake / rice cake / something in the shape of a cake / anything round and flat (as a disc)

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word refers to a small, cracker-like food. In Chinese, this word refers to a large and thin pancake-like food. Western-style pancakes (also known as hotcakes, griddlecakes, or flapjacks) are known as ホットケーキ (hottokeiki) or パンケーキ (pankeiki) in Japanese and as 薄烤餅 (bó kǎobǐng) in Chinese. Mochi (餅) is a type of Japanese rice cake and is known as 麻糬 (máshǔ) in Chinese.

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 餅

基礎

July 25, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kiso

Japanese Meaning: basis / foundation / base / basic / ground / root

Parts:

ki(moto, motoi) - origin / source / base / basis / foundation / root / fundamentals / cause / ingredient / material / original cost / (plant) root / (tree) trunk / radical (chemistry) / handle (chopsticks, brush, etc.) / grip / counter for installed or mounted objects (stone lanterns, gravestones, etc.)

so(ishizue) - cornerstone / foundation stone

Chinese Pinyin: jīchǔ

Chinese Meaning: basis / foundation / base / underlying / fundamental / basic

Parts:

jī - base / foundation / basis / origin / root / basic / on the basis of / according to / on the strength of / group (chemistry) / radical (chemistry)

chǔ - foundation / base / plinth

蚊帳

July 25, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kaya

Japanese Meaning: mosquito net

Parts:

ka(bun) - mosquito

ya(chou, tobari) - notebook / album / account book / register / curtain / hanging / bunting

Chinese Pinyin: wénzhàng

Chinese Meaning: mosquito net

Parts:

wén - mosquito / gnat / (Cantonese) unit of currency, dollar

zhàng - covering veil / canopy / curtain / screen / tent / mosquito net

*Note: 3 variants of the first character are 蚊 蚤 蠅 A variant of the second character is 賬

皮膚

July 26, 2012

Japanese Romaji: hifu

Japanese Meaning: skin

Parts:

hi(kawa, gawa, pi) - skin / pelt / hide / fur / leather / rind / peel / husk / bark / shell / sheath / wrapping / mask (hiding one's true nature) / seeming

fu(hada, hadae, pu) - skin / grain (e.g. of wood) / texture / surface / body (in the context of intimate bodily contact) / disposition / temperament / character / a type

Chinese Pinyin: pífū

Chinese Meaning: skin

Parts:

pí - skin / fur / hide / feather / leather / rind / peel / bark / outer / pericarp / cortex / epidermis / thin sheet / wrapper / cover / pico- (one trillionth) / naughty / mischievous / (Cantonese slang) a buck, dollar, \$10,000 / (Cantonese slang) level, standard, size / (Cantonese) fur coat, leather goods / (Cantonese) capital, overheads

fū - skin / surface / superficial / shallow / skin-deep / great (achievements, merit)

永久

July 26, 2012

Japanese Romaji: eikyuu / tokoshie / towa

Japanese Meaning: eternity / perpetuity / immortality / permanence / timeless / eternally unchanging

Parts:

ei(naga) - eternity / lengthy / long in time

kyuu(hisa, ku) - long time / old story

Chinese Pinyin: yǒngjiǔ

Chinese Meaning: everlasting / perpetual / lasting / forever / permanent

Parts:

yǒng - eternal / forever / always / perpetual / long in time / everlasting / permanent

jiǔ - (long) time / (long) duration of time / long time (ago) / time passage / grow late / detain someone

*Note: a variant of the second character is 久

清掃

July 27, 2012

Japanese Romaji: seiso

Japanese Meaning: cleaning

Parts:

sei(su, kiyo, shi, shou, shin) - cleanse / pure / purify / exorcise / Qing (dynasty of China) / Ch'ing /

Manchu Dynasty

sou(ha) - brush / sweep

Chinese Pinyin: qīngsǎo

Chinese Meaning: to tidy up / to mop up / a sweep (against crime)

Parts:

qīng - clear / pure / clean / fresh / just and honest / virtuous / distinct / clarified / explicit / simple / easily understandable / quiet / silent / still / peaceful / to settle or clear up / to clean up or purge / purify / arrange / place in order / brief / scarce / conclude / terminate / repay (debts) / settle / Qing or Ch'ing dynasty of Imperial China

sǎo(sào) - to sweep (with a broom, etc.) / clear away / exterminate / eliminate / get rid of / move quickly left and right / a broom

*Note: a variant of the first character is 清 A variant of the second character is 埽

觀測/觀

July 27, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kansoku

Japanese Meaning: observation

Parts:

kan(mi) - look / view / outlook / appearance / spectacle / sight / condition

soku(haka) - measure / plan / scheme / fathom

Chinese Pinyin: guāncè

Chinese Meaning: to observe / to survey / observation

Parts:

guān(guàn) - see / to look at / view / to watch / inspect / to observe / to behold / appearance / sights / views / display / to advise / concept / point of view / Taoist monastery / palace gate watchtower / platform

cè - side / to lean / to survey / to measure / fathom / conjecture / estimate / speculate / guess

*Note: another variant of the first character is 覲

商店

July 28, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shouten

Japanese Meaning: shop / small store / business / firm / retail shop

Parts:

shou(akina) - store / selling / merchant / dealer / dealing / dealing in / make a deal / quotient (math) / second degree (of the Japanese & Chinese pentatonic scale) / Shang (dynasty of China)

ten(tana, mise) - shop / store / establishment / commercial building / merchant's home / rented home

Chinese Pinyin: shāngdiàn

Chinese Meaning: store / shop

Parts:

shāng - commerce / business / trade / merchant / trader / dealer / businessman / to consult / discuss / exchange views / confer / quotient (math) / 2nd note in pentatonic scale / the Shang dynasty, 16th to 11th century BC

diàn - shop / store / commercial establishment / inn / hotel

*Note: 700th kanji

湿润/濕

July 28, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shitsujun

Japanese Meaning: dampness

Parts:

shitsu(shime) - damp / moist / wet

jun(uruo, uru, hoto) - be watered / wet / charm / favor / profit by / receive benefits / steep

Chinese Pinyin: shīrùn

Chinese Meaning: moist / wet

Parts:

shī - moist / wet / humid / damp / get wet / an illness / ailments caused by high humidity (Chinese medicine)

rùn - smooth / sleek / glossy / soft / moist / moisten / lubricate / dampen / freshen / profit / benefits / returns / polish / touch up / embellish / (Cantonese) make fun of somebody, laugh at somebody, give a little benefit to somebody, provoke, display respect to

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: another variant of the first character is 溼

義肢

July 29, 2012

Japanese Romaji: gishi

Japanese Meaning: artificial limb / prosthesis

Parts:

gi - honor / honour / justice / loyalty / meaning / morality / righteousness / meaning / teachings / doctrine / prosthesis / non-consanguineous relationship (e.g. in-laws) / relative with no blood relation
shi(ashi) - limb / arms and legs / foot / leg / gait / pace

Chinese Pinyin: yìzhī

Chinese Meaning: artificial limb / prosthesis

Parts:

yì - justice / righteousness / morality / generosity / charity / philanthropy / chivalry / meaning / connotation / unreal / artificial / fake
zhī - human limbs / animal feet

陶芸/藝

July 29, 2012

Japanese Romaji: tougei

Japanese Meaning: ceramics / ceramic art / pottery

Parts:

tou(sue) - porcelain / pottery

gei - art / craft / accomplishment / acting / performance / stunt / technique / trick / artistic skill

Chinese Pinyin: táoyì

Chinese Meaning: ceramics / ceramic art / pottery

Parts:

táo - pottery / earthenware / make pottery / ceramics / cultivate / mould / educate / pleased /
contented / happy / joyful

yì - skill / art / talent / ability / craft / dexterity

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the second character is also (1) the simplified Chinese form of 藝 (yún), a type of plant and (2) a separate traditional Chinese character.

*Note 2: another variant of the second character is 秬

比較

July 30, 2012

Japanese Romaji: hikaku

Japanese Meaning: comparison

Parts:

hi(kura, koro, tagu) - compare / ratio / proportion / match / equal / race / Philippines (abbreviation) / explicit comparison (style of the Shi Jing)

kaku(kou, kura) - compare / contrast

Chinese Pinyin: bǐjiào

Chinese Meaning: to compare / to contrast / comparatively / relatively / quite / comparison

Parts:

bǐ(bì) - to compare / liken to / comparison / comparable to / than / to contrast / to gesture (with hands) / ratio / be the ratio of / to (in a score) / compete with / emulate / (particle used for comparison and “-er than”) / to associate with / to be near / close / neighbouring / stand side by side / stand close together / lie next to / cling to / collude with / Belgium

jiào(jiǎo) - comparatively / relatively / to contrast / to compare / rather / fairly / quite / more / clearly (different) / markedly / than / (preposition comparing difference in degree) / to haggle over / to quibble / to contest / dispute / obvious / clear / conspicuous / (Cantonese) flee / escape

*Note: a variant of the first character is 𠵽

彫刻/雕

July 30, 2012

Japanese Romaji: chokoku

Japanese Meaning: carving / engraving / sculpture

Parts:

chou(ho, bo) - carve / chisel / engrave / carving / engraving

koku(kiza) - chop / cut fine / hash / mince / cutting / mincing / engrave / carving / engraving / strictness / cruelty / time / scratch / archaic period of time (usually a period of approximately two hours

corresponding to one of the signs of the Chinese zodiac)

Chinese Pinyin: diāokè

Chinese Meaning: carving / to carve / to engrave

Parts:

diāo - to engrave / inlay / carve / sculpt / carving / sculpture / decorate / ornament / exhaust / shrewd / emaciated

kè - quarter (hour) / moment / to carve / to engrave / things carved / to cut / describe / depict / portray / oppressive / unkind / harsh / cruel / profound / deeply / firmly / counter for short time intervals

*Note: Inside mainland China, the second version of the first character is considered the simplified Chinese version of 彫 and the simplified version of 雕 (diāo, a golden eagle / condor / vulture / eagle / hawk). Outside of mainland China, it is considered a variant of these two characters.

改訂

July 31, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kaitei

Japanese Meaning: revision (of text) / alteration / change

Parts:

kai(arata) - change / modify / mend / reformation / reform / correct / renew / revision / examine / inspect / search

tei - revise / correct / decide

Chinese Pinyin: gǎidìng

Chinese Meaning: to revise (text, plan, etc.)

Parts:

gǎi - to change / to alter / to transform / to convert / to correct / revise / amend / improve / remodel / switch over to / turn to / change to

dìng - to agree / to conclude / to draw up (agreement, treaty, contract, etc.) / arrange / settle / fix / to subscribe to (a newspaper, etc.) / to order / make reservations (in a hotel, restaurant, etc.) / to edit / collate / revise / make corrections

衝突/突

July 31, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shoutotsu

Japanese Meaning: collision / crash / conflict of opinion

Parts:

shou(tsu) - important point (e.g. on a route) / important role (responsibility, etc.) / brunt / collide /

pierce / prick / stab / thrust / highway / opposition (astronomy)

totsu(tsu, tsutsu, dzu, ka) - pierce / prick / protruding / stab / thrust / thrusting

Chinese Pinyin: chōngtū / chōngtú (Taiwan)

Chinese Meaning: conflict / to conflict / clash of opposing forces / collision (of interests) / contention

Parts:

chōng(chòng) - to go straight ahead / to rush (against) / charge ahead / dash / thrust forth / burst into /

to clash / collide / offend / soar / skyrocket / shoot up / rise rapidly / thoroughfare / strategic place /

hub / counterbalance / offset / cancel out / face / front on / direct towards / powerful / vigorous /

relentless / pungent / towards / in view of / on the strength of / because of / (machine) stamp / punch

tū(tú) - to dash / to move forward quickly / to bulge / to protrude / to break through / to rush out /

sudden / abruptly / unexpectedly

*Note: a variant of the second character is 突

起床

August 1, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kishou

Japanese Meaning: rising / getting out of bed

Parts:

ki(o, oko, ta) - get up / rouse / wake up

shou(toko, doko, yuka) - floor / straw "core" of a tatami mat / tatami / bed / bedding / padding / sickbed / (abbreviation) alcove / riverbed / seedbed / stage (for the narrator and the shamisen player) / a raised area of a stage where a presenter or musician sits / dining platform built across a river / a raised platform erected along the Kamo River in Kyōto in summer, used as an outdoor tea shop or restaurant / the seat of an oxcart / a box seat, such as at a parade, theater, or stadium / the heel of a plough; the part of the bottom of a plough that touches the ground and guides the ploughshare / counter for beds

Chinese Pinyin: qǐchuáng

Chinese Meaning: to get out of bed / to get up

Parts:

qǐ - to rise / to raise / to get up / to stand up / go up / to set out / to start / begin / to appear / to launch / to initiate (action) / to draft / to establish / to build / to get (from a depot or counter) / (verb suffix) to start / (before place or time) starting from / to happen / take place / unfold / uncover / counter for occurrences, incidents, legal cases, or unpredictable events (case, instance) / counter for groups (batch, group)

chuáng - bed / couch / framework / chassis / counter for beds

*Note: a variant of the second character is 牀

整頓

August 1, 2012

Japanese Romaji: seiton

Japanese Meaning: orderliness / put in order / tidying up / arranging neatly

Parts:

sei(totono) - arranging / organize / meter / key (music) / tone / tune

ton(tomi) - immediately / in a hurry / suddenly

Chinese Pinyin: zhěngdùn

Chinese Meaning: to tidy up / to reorganize / to consolidate / to rectify / to straighten

Parts:

zhěng - exactly / in good order / whole / complete / entire / intact / in order / orderly / neat / tidy /
adjust / arrange / make ready / systematically / sharp / to repair / to mend / to renovate / to give
somebody a hard time / to mess with somebody

dùn - to stop / to pause / halt / suddenly / immediately / promptly / to arrange / to settle / put in order /
to lay out / to bow / to kowtow / to nod / to stamp (one's foot) / at once / fatigued / tired / exhausted /
counter for meals, turns, beatings, scoldings, etc. (time, bout, spell, meal)

矛盾

August 2, 2012

Japanese Romaji: mujun

Japanese Meaning: contradiction / inconsistency / paradox

Parts:

mu(hoko) - lance / pike / halberd / long-handled Chinese spear / arms / weapon / grip of a bow / festival float

jun(tate, date) - shield / escutcheon / buckler / pretext

Chinese Pinyin: máodùn

Chinese Meaning: contradictory / contradiction / paradox / conflicting views

Parts:

máo - lance / spear / pike

dùn - shield / shield-shaped object

*Note: the origin of this word comes from a story in a 3rd century BC philosophical book (Han Feizi) about a man selling what he claimed to be a spear that could pierce anything and a shield that could defend from anything. When asked what would happen if the sharpest spear and the strongest shield were to clash, he could not answer.

診断/斷

August 2, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shindan

Japanese Meaning: diagnosis

Parts:

shin(mi) - checkup / diagnose / examine / seeing

dan(kotowa, ta) - decision / judgment / judgement / resolution / dismiss / decline / prohibit / refuse /
severance / cutting / warn / apologize

Chinese Pinyin: zhěnduàn

Chinese Meaning: diagnosis / to diagnose

Parts:

zhěn - to examine or treat medically / examine a patient / diagnose / tell / report

duàn - to break / to snap / to cut off / sever / interrupt / to stop / to give up / to abstain from something
/ to quit / to judge / decide / determine / (negative) absolutely, definitely, decidedly

*Note: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

倉庫

August 3, 2012

Japanese Romaji: souko

Japanese Meaning: storehouse / warehouse / godown

Parts:

sou(kura, gura) - cellar / storehouse / warehouse / godown / granary / magazine / treasury / depository / elevator

ko(ku, kura) - cellar / storehouse / warehouse / godown / granary / magazine / treasury / depository / elevator

Chinese Pinyin: cāngkù

Chinese Meaning: storehouse / warehouse / depot

Parts:

cāng - barn / granary / storehouse / cabin / hold (in a ship) / berth / sea

kù - warehouse / storehouse / storeroom / granary / treasury / armory

絶滅/絶

August 3, 2012

Japanese Romaji: zetsumetsu

Japanese Meaning: extinction / destruction / annihilation / elimination

Parts:

zetsu(ta) - sever / cut off / discontinue / abstain / interrupt / suppress / beyond

metsu(horo, me) - destroy / overthrow / fall / collapse / perish / ruin / disappear

Chinese Pinyin: juémiè

Chinese Meaning: extinction / to exterminate / to annihilate / vanish

Parts:

jué - sever / to cut / to cut short / break off / terminate / discontinue / cease / renounce / decline /
extinct / to disappear / to vanish / run out of / exhausted / used up / finished / without match / peerless
/ unparalleled / utmost / isolated / get out of circulation / separate / without posterity / heirless /
absolutely / extremely / most / by no means / destroy / leaving with no leeway / making no allowance /
uncompromising / poem of four lines / (slang) cool / awesome

miè - to destroy / annihilate / do away with / eradicate / to extinguish / to put out / to go out (of a fire,
etc.) / to exterminate / to wipe out / disappear / perish / submerge / to drown

逮捕

August 4, 2012

Japanese Romaji: taiho

Japanese Meaning: arrest / apprehension / capture

Parts:

tai - apprehend / chase

ho(tsuka, to, tora) - capture / catch

Chinese Pinyin: dài bǔ / dǎi bǔ (Taiwan)

Chinese Meaning: to arrest / to apprehend / an arrest / to take into custody

Parts:

dài(dǎi) - to catch / to seize / to arrest / apprehend / to capture / be after / hunt / to get a hold of / to overtake / (literary) reach / come up to / arrive / until

bǔ - to catch / to seize / to capture / to arrest / apprehend / policeman

首相

August 4, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shushou

Japanese Meaning: Prime Minister / Chancellor / Premier

Parts:

shu(kubi, koube, shirushi) - neck / head / unemployed person / one's life / tell / beginning / first / counter for songs and poems / decapitated head of an enemy

shou(ai, sou) - mutual / together / reciprocal / with one another / each other / meeting / inter- / fellow / councillor / minister of state / phase (e.g. solid, liquid and gaseous) / physiognomy / appearance / look / countenance / a 'seeming' that fortune-tellers relate to one's fortune / aspect

*Note 1: 相撲 (sumo) has the reading of "sumou" or "zumou"

Chinese Pinyin: shǒuxiàng

Chinese Meaning: Prime Minister

Parts:

shǒu - head / chief / leader / emperor / king / first (occasion, thing, etc.) / beginning / a poem / counter for songs and poems

xiàng(xiāng) - appearance / looks / posture / portrait / picture / photo / image / appraise / assess / examine / government minister / Prime Minister / Premier / (physics) phase / each other / one another / mutually / reciprocal / toward

*Note 2: an alternative word for Prime Minister is 総理 (souri) in Japanese and 總理 (zǒnglǐ) in Chinese

依頼/頼

August 5, 2012

Japanese Romaji: irai

Japanese Meaning: request / commission / dispatch / despatch / dependence / reliance / entrust / trust

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 要求 (yāoqiú, for the meaning of “request”)

Parts:

i(yo, e) - depend on / due to / reliant / therefore / consequently

rai(tano, tayo) - request / trust

Chinese Pinyin: yīlài

Chinese Meaning: to depend on / to be dependent on / to rely on

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 依存 (izon)

Parts:

yī - to depend on / rely on / count on / be set in / lean on / rest on / attach to / to comply with / consent / obey a wish / to listen to somebody / yield to / according to / in the light of / judging by

lài - to depend on / rely / count on / to hang on in a place / drag out one's stay in a place / bad / poor / no good / to renege (on a promise) / to disclaim / to rat (on debts) / deny one's errors / shirk one's responsibilities / rascally / to blame / to put the blame on / shift the blame onto somebody else / accuse falsely / blame somebody wrongly

*Note: In general, the Japanese term has two possible meanings: “a request” or “dependence”. The Chinese term only means “dependence”.

組織

August 5, 2012

Japanese Romaji: soshiki

Japanese Meaning: organization / organisation / structure / construction / (biology) tissue / system

Parts:

so(kumi, ku, gumi, gu) - association / assemble / unite / cooperate / set (of items) / group (of people) / class (of students) / company (especially construction) / family (i.e. mafia) / team / construct / braid / grapple / plait / typesetting / composition

shiki(o, ori, shoku) - fabric / weave / weaving / woven item

Chinese Pinyin: zǔzhī

Chinese Meaning: to organize / organization / organisation / organized system / nerve / (biology) tissue

Parts:

zǔ - to form / to organize / arrange / unite / organization / organisation / group / team / class / section / department / collective team / tassels / fringe / girdle / counter for sets, series, groups of people, batteries

zhī - to weave / to knit / organize / unite

勤劳/勤勞

August 6, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kinrou

Japanese Meaning: labor / labour / exertion / diligent service

Parts:

kin(iso, tsuto, dzuto, gon) - serve / diligence / become employed

rou(itawa, negira) - labor / labour / reward for / thank for / toil / trouble / pains / work / effort / striving

Chinese Pinyin: qínláo

Chinese Meaning: hardworking / industrious / diligent

Parts:

qín - diligent / industrious / attentive / hardworking / duty / attendance / service / work / frequent / regular / constantly

láo(lào) - toil / to labor / labour / to manual work / trouble / worry / bother / to console / meritorious deeds / services

*Note: A variant of the first character is 廛

印刷

August 6, 2012

Japanese Romaji: insatsu

Japanese Meaning: printing

Parts:

in(shirushi, shiru, jirushi) - mark / seal / stamp / emblem / symbol / indication / imprint / print / sign / badge / crest / flag / trademark / evidence / proof / souvenir / token (of gratitude, affection, etc.) /

(Abbreviation) India / (Buddhism) mudra (symbolic hand gesture)

satsu(su, suri, zu, zuri, ha) - print / printing / impression / issue

Chinese Pinyin: yìnshuā

Chinese Meaning: printing / print

Parts:

yìn - to print / to mark / to engrave / a seal / a print / a stamp / a mark / imprint / a trace / chop / image / (Abbreviation) India

shuā(shuà) - to brush / to paint / to daub / scrub / to clean / clean with brush / swipe / a brush (e.g. toothbrush, paintbrush, etc.) / to paste up / eliminate / to skip class / to fire from a job / to select / choose / pick / pale / white (face)

建築

August 7, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kenchiku

Japanese Meaning: construction / architecture (of buildings)

Parts:

ken(ta, tate, da, date, kon) - build

chiku(kizu, tsui) - build / construct / fabricate

Chinese Pinyin: jiànzhù / jiànzhú (Taiwan)

Chinese Meaning: to construct / building / to build

Parts:

jiàn - to establish / to found / to set up / to build / to construct / to erect / bring up / propose / suggest

zhù(zhú) - to build / to construct / to erect / building / to ram / to hit

移植

August 7, 2012

Japanese Romaji: ishoku

Japanese Meaning: transplanting / porting / implantation / engrafting

Parts:

i(utsu) - change / drift / move / pass into / shift / catch (cold, fire)

shoku(u, ue) - plant

Chinese Pinyin: yízhí

Chinese Meaning: to transplant / transplanting / grafting

Parts:

yí - to move / to shift / to change / change place / move about / to alter / to influence / affect / to remove / forward / transmit / transfer / transplant / convey / give / endow

zhí - to plant / plants / trees / flora / vegetation / grow / cultivate / set up / establish / erect

*Note: in Chinese, a variant of this word is 移植

独立/獨

August 8, 2012

Japanese Romaji: dokuritsu

Japanese Meaning: independence / self-support / separation

Parts:

doku(hito, ko) - alone / single / spontaneously / Germany

ritsu(ta, tachi, tate, da, dachi, date, ryuu) - rise / stand up / set up / erect

Chinese Pinyin: dúlì

Chinese Meaning: independent / independence / to stand alone / to stand up for oneself

Parts:

dú - alone / lone / independent / single / solitary / sole / only / in solitude / on one's own / uniquely / exclusively / creatively / the childless / old people without offspring

lì - to stand / to set / to set up / let stand / to establish / to found / to build / to erect / to create / to start / to lay down / to draw up / to institute / to compose (legal document) / stand on one's own feet / upright / vertical / standing / appoint / designate / enthrone / to exist / to live / be present / at once / immediately / instantaneously

*Note: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

傾向

August 8, 2012

Japanese Romaji: keikou

Japanese Meaning: tendency / trend / inclination

Parts:

kei(kashi, kata, katamu, nada) - bias / incline / lean / tilt / slant / slope / diagonal / oblique / trend /
wane / ruin / sink

kou(mu, muka, muko, nata) - approach / beyond / yonder / confront / defy / facing / tend toward

Chinese Pinyin: qīngxiàng

Chinese Meaning: trend / tendency / inclination / orientation

Parts:

qīng - to lean / to tend / to incline / tilt / slope / slant / bend / tendency / inclination / propensity /
deviation / to upset / to pour out / overflow / to overturn / to collapse / topple / overwhelm / dump /
exhaust / do all one can / use every exertion / (Cantonese) chat, talk, negotiate, get on with

xiàng - towards / to face / to turn towards / trend / direction / inclination / tendency / from / against /
to support / to side with / shortly before / until now / formerly / always / all along

*Note: a variant of the first character is 頃 (which is also a separate character). The second character is
also the simplified Chinese version of 嚮 (xiàng) and 嚮 (xiàng) (which are also traditional Chinese
variants); the meanings are roughly the same.

契約

August 9, 2012

Japanese Romaji: keiyaku

Japanese Meaning: a contract / agreement / compact

Parts:

kei(chigi) - pledge (allegiance) / promise (loyalty) / vow / commit oneself

yaku(tsudzu, tsudzuma) - approximately / about / a promise / shortening / reduction / simplification / shrink / contraction (phonetics)

Chinese Pinyin: qìyuē

Chinese Meaning: a contract / written agreement / deed

Parts:

qì - a contract / a deed / bond / to agree / be congenial to / get along well / engrave / to carve / cut / carved words / carved characters / (Cantonese) to adopt somebody as a family member

yuē(yāo) - to make an appointment / engagement / date / rendezvous / to invite / arrange / approximately / about / around / pact / treaty / agreement / covenant / contract / to economize / to restrict / bind / restrain / to control / to reduce (a fraction) / concise / briefly / simply / simple / brief / economical / vaguely / poor / poverty / hardship / straitened / (slang) to weigh on a balance or on a scale

*Note: another variant of the first character is 契

議論

August 9, 2012

Japanese Romaji: giron

Japanese Meaning: argument / discussion / dispute / controversy / debate

Parts:

gi - consideration / consultation / debate / deliberation / discussion / thought / opinion

ron(agesura) - argument / discourse / discussion / dispute / controversy / debate / theory / doctrine / essay / treatise / comment

Chinese Pinyin: yìlùn

Chinese Meaning: discussion / to discuss / to talk about / to comment

Parts:

yì - to comment on / to discuss / talk over / exchange views on / consult / to suggest / suggestion / opinion / view / proposal

lùn(lún) - to discuss / to talk (about) / debate / dispute / argue / discourse / comment on / appraise / evaluate / theory / dissertation / essay / system of thoughts / mention / regard / consider / per / by the (kilometer, hour, etc.) / in terms of / the Analects (of Confucius)

姿勢

August 10, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shisei

Japanese Meaning: posture / stance / approach / carriage (of the body) / attitude

Parts:

shi(sugata) - figure / form / shape / appearance / dress / guise / state / aspect / condition / picture / image / form (of a waka) / dressed in ... / wearing ...

sei(ikio, hazu, se, zei) - energy / forces / military strength / groups engaged in some activity (players, companies, forces, etc.)

Chinese Pinyin: zīshì

Chinese Meaning: posture / position / gesture / asana

Parts:

zī - posture / gesture / carriage / bearing / beauty / disposition / features / looks / appearance / one's manner

shì - power / force / influence / strength / potential / momentum / tendency / trend / situation / conditions / state of affairs / circumstances / outward appearance / sign / posture / carriage / gesture / male genitals

*Note: in Chinese, a variant of this word is 姿式

遲疑/遲

August 10, 2012

Japanese Romaji: chigi

Japanese Meaning: hesitation / vacillation

Parts:

chi(oku, oso) - late / later / slow / back

gi(utaga, utagu) - distrust / doubt / question / be suspicious / suspicion (of)

Chinese Pinyin: chíyí

Chinese Meaning: to hesitate

Parts:

chí - late / tardy / delay / delayed / belated / slow / dilatory / sluggish

yí - to doubt / to misbelieve / to suspect / to question / doubtful / dubious / skeptical / suspicious /

strange / incomprehensible / mysterious / questionable / sham / dummy / false

*Note: another variant of the first character is 遲

免税/税

August 11, 2012

Japanese Romaji: menzei

Japanese Meaning: tax exemption / duty exemption

Parts:

men(manuka, manuga) - dismissal / to excuse / being made to quit

zei - tax / duty

Chinese Pinyin: miǎnshuì

Chinese Meaning: tax free / duty free (shop) / not liable to taxation (of monastery, imperial family, etc.)
/ exempt from taxation

Parts:

miǎn - to excuse somebody / to exempt from / to spare from / to remove or dismiss from office / relieve
/ dispense with / to avoid / to avert / evade / to escape / to be prohibited / forbid / not allowed

shuì - taxes / duties / duty / revenue / tax

*Note: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

占領/佔

August 11, 2012

Japanese Romaji: senryou

Japanese Meaning: occupation / capture / possession / have a room to oneself

Parts:

sen(urana, shi, ura) - get / have / hold / occupy / take / divining / forecasting / fortune-telling

ryou(eri) - dominion / jurisdiction / reign / territory / fief / neck / collar / lapel / neckband

Chinese Pinyin: zhànlǐng

Chinese Meaning: to occupy (a territory) / to hold / invade / colonize

Parts:

zhàn(zhān) - to take possession of / to occupy by force / to seize / to usurp / to take up / observe / verify / to divine

lǐng - to lead / guide / to head / possess / own / occupy / outline / main point / to receive / to get / understand / comprehend / neck / collar / collarband / counter for clothes, mats, screens, etc.

*Note: both versions of the first character can be used in Chinese for this word. Although the two can be treated as two distinct traditional characters, the one with fewer strokes is also considered the simplified version of the one with more strokes. The one with more strokes only has the reading “zhàn” and only means “to take possession” or “occupy by force”. The one with fewer strokes (when used as a traditional character) has the additional reading of “zhān” with the meaning of “to divine”.

勇武

August 12, 2012

Japanese Romaji: yuubu

Japanese Meaning: bravery / valor / valour / military prowess / courageous in battle

Parts:

yuu(isa) - bravery / courage / heroism / cheer up / be in high spirits

bu(take, mu) - military / military force / the sword / military officer / warrior / valor / bravery / chivalry / arms

Chinese Pinyin: yǒngwǔ

Chinese Meaning: brave

Parts:

yǒng - brave / valiant / courageous / fierce / soldier / conscript

wǔ - martial / military / force / warlike / footprints / steps / the length of a half pace / the string of an ancient hat / inherit

前庭

August 12, 2012

Japanese Romaji: zentei

Japanese Meaning: front garden / front yard / vestibule (of the ear)

Parts:

zen(mae, saki, sen) - in front of / before (in time or place, e.g. before the house) / ago / some time ago / earlier / (minutes) to (the hour) / the last (i.e. immediately preceding, the last mayor, etc.) / previous / prior / previously / preceding / the past / one-time / former / pre- (era, e.g. pre-modern) / head (of a line) / front (of an object) / fore part / point (e.g. of a pencil) / tip (of something) / end / nozzle / ahead / the other side / the future / hereafter / afterwards / destination / the other party / in the presence of / a helping / a portion / an amount / privates / private parts

tei(niwa) - garden / yard / courtyard

Chinese Pinyin: qiántíng

Chinese Meaning: front courtyard / vestibule / parvis / forehead

Parts:

qián - front / in front / forward / ahead / ago / before / first / top (followed by a number) / previous / former / preceding / formerly / past / of earlier times / future / advance / proceed / progress / precede / B.C. (Before Christ)

tíng - main hall / spacious hall or yard / front courtyard / imperial courtyard / law court / court of justice

編著

August 13, 2012

Japanese Romaji: hencho

Japanese Meaning: compilation

Parts:

hen(a, ami, pen) - braid / plait / twist / knit / part of a book / compilation (of a text) / editing / volume (of a text) / completed literary work

cho(arawa, ichijiru, jaku, chaku) - literary work / book / (a book) by / the author of a book / publish / write / put on / wear / to don / obvious / striking / finish (a race) / arrival / remarkable / renowned / phenomenal / counter for suits of clothing

Chinese Pinyin: biānzhù

Chinese Meaning: to compile / to write

Parts:

biān - to weave / to knit / to plait / to braid / to organize / to group / to arrange / to edit / to compile / to write / to compose / book / volume (of a text) / copy / to fabricate / to make up / cook up

zhù(zhāo, zhào, zhe, zhuó) - to make known / to show / to prove / to write / to compile / to record / book / writing / literary work / manifest / outstanding / famous / celebrated / prominent / aboriginal / aborigine / to wear (clothes) / put on / be dressed in / clothing / to contact / attach / to use / to apply / set about / dispatch / send / assign / to touch / to come in contact with / to feel / to be affected by / be troubled with / to catch fire / to burn / to combust / be ignited / be lit / (Cantonese) to turn on (a light) / (colloquial) to fall asleep / (chess) move / take action / trick / step / device / all right! / (dialect) to add / (after a verb) to hit the mark / succeed in doing something / aspect particle indicating action in progress / particle used after some adjectives to denote comparison of levels / particle denoting a command, request or advice / (Beijing Mandarin) Particle used after verbs to denote the severity of the event / (Cantonese) one by one

*Note 1: I am treating 着 and 著 as two characters for this project. For the Chinese version of 著, aside from the “zhù” reading, the simplified/alternate version is 着. 着 is used in Japanese often (and written slightly differently than in traditional Chinese) and doesn’t usually relate to the Japanese version of 著. The Japanese version of 着 can mean “to wear” or “to arrive”. Hong Kong also differentiates between 着 and 著.

*Note 2: another variant of the second character is 著

粘着/著

August 13, 2012

Japanese Romaji: nenchaku

Japanese Meaning: cohesion / adhesion

Parts:

nen(neba) - sticky / greasy / glutinous / persevere

chaku(ki, gi, tsu, jaku) - to wear / to don / clothes / outfit / uniform / arrive at / counter for suits of clothing

Chinese Pinyin: niánzhuó

Chinese Meaning: to adhere / to stick together

Parts:

nián(zhān) - sticky / to stick / to adhere / glutinous / viscous / mucous / to glue / to stick / to paste

zhuó(zhāo, zháo, zhe) - to wear (clothes) / put on / be dressed in / clothing / to contact / attach / to use / to apply / set about / dispatch / send / assign / to touch / to come in contact with / to feel / to be affected by / be troubled with / to catch fire / to burn / to combust / be ignited / be lit / (Cantonese) to turn on (a light) / (colloquial) to fall asleep / (chess) move / take action / trick / step / device / all right! / (dialect) to add / (after a verb) to hit the mark / succeed in doing something / aspect particle indicating action in progress / particle used after some adjectives to denote comparison of levels / particle denoting a command, request or advice / (Beijing Mandarin) Particle used after verbs to denote the severity of the event / (Cantonese) one by one / (Cantonese) catch, receive, suffer

*Note 1: I am treating 着 and 著 as two characters for this project. For the Chinese version of 著, aside from the “zhù” reading, the simplified/alternate version is 着. 着 is used in Japanese often (and written slightly differently than in traditional Chinese) and doesn’t usually relate to the Japanese version of 著. The Japanese version of 着 can mean “to wear” or “to arrive”. Hong Kong also differentiates between 着 and 著.

*Note 2: another variant of the first character is 黏. Another variant of the second character is 著

周围/圍

August 14, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shuui

Japanese Meaning: surroundings / environs / around (someone) / the surrounding area / circumference

Parts:

shuu(mawa) - circumference / (geometric) perimeter / lap / circuit / Zhou (dynasty of China) / Chou / counter for laps or circuits / whip

i(kako, gako) - encircle / enclosure / surround / paling / keep / preserve / store / besiege

Chinese Pinyin: zhōuwéi

Chinese Meaning: surroundings / environment / to encompass / around / about / the area surrounding something / circumference / ambient

Parts:

zhōu - to make a circuit / to circle / circle / circular / circumference / perimeter / periphery / lap / cycle / complete / all / all over / all around / whole / thorough / complete / perfect / help out / relieve / to help financially / Zhou Dynasty (1046-256 BC)

wéi - to encircle / to surround / to corral / to enclose / besiege / circumference / perimeter / periphery / all around / to wear by wrapping around (scarf, shawl, etc.)

*Note: in Chinese, the first character is also the simplified form of 週 (zhōu), which means “week”, “weekly”, or “period”. For some other meanings, the first character is a traditional Chinese variant of 週.

申請

August 14, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shinsei

Japanese Meaning: application / request / petition

Parts:

shin(saru, mou) - have the honor to / sign of the monkey (zodiac) / ninth sign of the Chinese zodiac

sei(u, uke, ko, da, shou, shin) - ask / beg / request / receive / invite / solicit / entertain sincerely / donate to constructing a temple or a shrine

Chinese Pinyin: shēnqǐng

Chinese Meaning: application (form, etc.) / to apply for something

Parts:

shēn - to extend / expand / explain / set forth / to state (to a superior) / to report / to explain / sign of the monkey (zodiac) / ninth sign of the Chinese zodiac / old name for Shanghai

qǐng - to ask / to invite / hire / request / apply / engage / please (do something) / to treat (to a meal, etc.)

環境

August 15, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kankyou

Japanese Meaning: environment / circumstance

Parts:

kan(tamaki, wa) - ring / circle / loop / link / band / hoop / wheel / circle (of friends) / (archaism) bracelet (made of stringed jewels or bells and worn at the elbow) / bracer (for the elbow of an archer)

kyou(sakai, zakai, kei) - border / boundary / region / area / spot / space / environment / psychological state / mental state / (Buddhist term) cognitive object / something perceptible by the sense organs or mind

Chinese Pinyin: huánjìng

Chinese Meaning: environment / circumstances / surroundings / ambient

Parts:

huán - ring / hoop / loop / (chain) link / bracelet / earrings for women / ear-ornaments / to surround / to encircle / surrounding / around / round / to hem in / jade ring or bracelet / counter for scores in archery

jìng - border / boundary / frontier / place / area / territory / region / circumstances / condition / state / situation

規模

August 15, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kibo

Japanese Meaning: scale / scope / extent / dimension / plan / structure

Parts:

ki - standard / measure

bo(katado, mo) - copy / imitation / mock

Chinese Pinyin: guīmó

Chinese Meaning: scale / scope / size / extent

Parts:

guī - a rule / regulation / customs / law / to admonish / to advise / to plan / to scheme / map out /
compass / dividers

mó(mú) - to imitate / copy / simulate / model / norm / pattern / standard / a mold / mould / a die /
matrix / pattern / form

混乱/亂

August 16, 2012

Japanese Romaji: konran

Japanese Meaning: disorder / chaos / confusion / mayhem

Parts:

kon(ko, ma) - blend / confuse / mix / mixed / opposite of pure

ran(mida, ron) - disorder / disturb / riot / revolt / rebellion / war

Chinese Pinyin: hùnlùn

Chinese Meaning: disorder / chaos / confusion

Parts:

hùn(hún) - to mix / blend / to mingle / muddled / to drift along / to muddle along / to bumble along / fool around / to pass for / to confuse / to get along with somebody / thoughtless / reckless / foolish / stupid / wretched / confused / dirty / muddy / turbid / foul

lùn - confusion / disorder / in a confused state of mind / upset / perturbed / confused / state of chaos / upheaval / riot / riotous / disorderly / messy / revolt / war / to throw into disorder / jumble up / to mix up / indiscriminate / random / arbitrary

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: another variant of the second character is 亂

授与/與

August 16, 2012

Japanese Romaji: juyo

Japanese Meaning: award / conferment

Parts:

ju(sazu) - confer / grant / impart / instruct

yo(azuka, ata, kumi) - award / bestow / gift / give / grant / impart / godsend / participate in / provide / cause

Chinese Pinyin: shòuyǔ

Chinese Meaning: confer / grant

Parts:

shòu - to award / to give / to grant / transmit / confer / to teach / to instruct / to lecture

yǔ(yù, yú) - and / together with / to / for / against / give / offer / grant / get along with / be on good terms with / take part in / participate in / (sentence-ending particle expressing doubt or surprise)

虚構/虚

August 17, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kyokou

Japanese Meaning: fiction / fabrication / concoction / fictitious / fictional / imaginary / counterfeit

Parts:

kyo(utsu, muna, uro, ko) - crack / emptiness / fissure / void / hollow / cavity / hole / unpreparedness / untruth / falsehood

kou(kama, gama, kamae) - build / posture / pretend / kanji enclosure type radical (must enclose at least two sides of the kanji)

Chinese Pinyin: xūgòu

Chinese Meaning: fictitious / fabrication / imaginary / false / to make up

Parts:

xū - emptiness / empty / void / hollow / unoccupied / diffident / timid / false / worthless / unreal / deceptive / unfounded / groundless / humble / modest / weak (health) / feeble / abstract theory / guiding principles / shapeless / virtual / in vain

gòu - frame / building / structure / to construct / to form / to build / to establish / to constitute / to make up / to compose / literary composition / paper mulberry (*Broussonetia papyrifera*)

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: another variant of the first character is 虚

豊富/豊

August 17, 2012

Japanese Romaji: houfu

Japanese Meaning: abundance / wealth / plenty / bounty

Parts:

hou(toyo, yuta) - bountiful / abundant / excellent / rich

fu(tomi, to, fuu) - abundant / enrich / wealth / fortune

Chinese Pinyin: fēngfù

Chinese Meaning: plentiful / abundant / bountiful / to enrich / rich

Parts:

fēng - abundant / plentiful / bountiful / plenty / luxuriant / lush / fertile / plump / great / charming / good-looking / handsome

fù - rich / abundant / wealthy / affluent / plentiful / ample

*Note 1: an archaic alternative name for Japan is 豊葦原の瑞穂の国 (Toyoashihara no Mizuho no Kuni), which literally means “Land Where Abundant Rice Shoots Ripen Beautifully”

*Note 2: another traditional variant of the first character is 丰 (which is also the simplified version of today's character). A variant of the second character is 富

官署

August 18, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kansho

Japanese Meaning: government office

Parts:

kan(tsukasa) - bureaucrat / the bureaucracy / the government / government service / chief / head /
(archaism) office / official

sho - government office (e.g. tax office) / station (especially police station) / signature

Chinese Pinyin: guānshǔ

Chinese Meaning: government agency / official institution / state bureau

Parts:

guān - government official / government / officer / office holder / public servant / official / state-owned
/ government-run / public / general / organ of body

shǔ - public office / government department / bureau / arrange / make arrangements for / to sign / put
one's signature to / act has deputy / handle by proxy

*Note: a variant of the second character is 署

引退

August 18, 2012

Japanese Romaji: intai

Japanese Meaning: retire / retirement

Parts:

in(hi, bi) - pull / tug / to jerk / admit / quote / refer to / install

tai(shirizo, do, no, hi) - resign / retire / retreat / withdraw / expel / reject / repel

Chinese Pinyin: yǐntuì

Chinese Meaning: to retire from office / to resign

Parts:

yǐn - to draw (e.g. a bow) / to draw out / pull / attract / to stretch something / to extend / to lengthen / to involve / to implicate in / to attract / to lead / to guide / introduce / to leave / to retire / to quote / to provide evidence or justification for / to cause / to make / old unit of distance equal to 10 丈,

one-thirtieth of a km or 33.33 meters

tuì - to retreat / to decline / to move back / to recede / to withdraw / step back / quit / retire / bow out / give back / refund / return / cancel / retract

賛嘆/贊嘆

August 19, 2012

Japanese Romaji: santan

Japanese Meaning: praise / admiration

Parts:

san - assist / praise / tribute / approve / agree with / title or inscription on picture

tan(nage) - grieve / lament / moan / sigh / chant

Chinese Pinyin: zàntàn

Chinese Meaning: high praise / to sigh or gasp in admiration

Parts:

zàn - to support / to help / to assist / favour / to aid / to praise / to patronize

tàn - to sigh / to gasp / admire / to exclaim

*Note: Another variant of the first character is 讚. Another variant of the second character is 歎

貝殼/殻

August 19, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kaigara

Japanese Meaning: shell / seashell

Parts:

kai(gai, bai) - shellfish / shell / Japanese babylon (species of shelled mollusk, Babylonia japonica) /

Japanese ivory shell / spinning top (traditionally made from a Japanese babylon shell)

gara(kara, kaku) - husk / shell / casing / hull / pod / skin / chaff / crust / cinders / ashes / leftovers /

left-overs / remnants / chicken bones (e.g. for soup) / chicken carcass / poor-quality coke (coal)

Chinese Pinyin: bèiké / bèiqiào

Chinese Meaning: shell (of molluscs, etc.) / seashell / conch / cowry / mother of pearl / clamshell / hard outer skin

Parts:

bèi - shellfish / shells / sea shell / cowrie used as money / currency (archaic) / money

ké(qiào) - shell / carapace / casing / husk / hull / skin / hard covering / crust (e.g. earth's) / hard surface / (Cantonese) (counter) ladle, scoop, spoon

*Note: a variant of the first character is 蜆

候補

August 20, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kouho

Japanese Meaning: candidate / contender / prospect / pick / choice / list / candidacy / candidature / nomination

Parts:

kou(sourou) - climate / season / weather / (archaism) (polite) to be (auxiliary used in place of "aru" after "de" or "ni" when forming a copula), to do (auxiliary used in place of "-masu" after a -masu stem) / (archaism) to serve (by a superior's side)

ho(ogina, po) - assistant / learner / compensate / offset / supplement / supply / make good

Chinese Pinyin: hòubǔ

Chinese Meaning: an alternate / substitute / reserve (candidate) / to wait to fill a vacancy / candidate (for a vacancy etc.) / (archaism) to temporarily fill a provincial or ministerial post prior to being assigned a permanent position by the Ministry for Personnel (during the Qing Dynasty)

Parts:

hòu - to wait / expect / to inquire after / visit / greet / to watch / season / climate / time / period / situation / condition / pay (bills) / take care of the bill / (archaism) period of five days

bǔ - to repair / to patch / to mend / to fix / restore / to make up for / help (finance) / subsidize / subsidise / to fill (a vacancy) / appoint to / fill a post / be of help / benefit / use / to supplement / add up / to supply / addenda / replenishments / complements / nutritious / nutrient / to nourish / rich foods / tonics

*Note: by definition, a "candidate" waits to potentially fill some sort of position and may replace someone, so the Chinese and Japanese definitions are similar. Based on example sentences, the Chinese term is closer to mean someone who is meant to substitute for another (i.e. a substitute or understudy).

負担/擔

August 20, 2012

Japanese Romaji: futan

Japanese Meaning: burden / charge / responsibility

Parts:

fu(o, ma, bu) - to bear / assume a responsibility / defeat / owe / minus / negative

tan(katsu, nina) - to bear / carry / raise / shouldering

Chinese Pinyin: fùdān

Chinese Meaning: burden / load / to bear a burden

Parts:

fù - to bear / to carry (on one's back) / to shoulder / load / burden / responsibility / task / to turn one's back on / lose / loss / to be defeated / suffer (injury) / owe (debt) / enjoy (fame) / be proud and complacent / have at one's back / rely on / betray / breach / repudiate / let someone down / negative (math) / minus

dān(dàn) - to undertake / to carry / to bear / to shoulder / suffer / endure / take upon oneself / to take responsibility / two buckets full / carrying pole and its load / picul or dan (100 catties, 50 kg) / counter for loads carried on a shoulder pole

*Note: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

唾液

August 21, 2012

Japanese Romaji: daeki

Japanese Meaning: saliva / sputum

Parts:

da(tsuba, tsubaki, zu) - saliva / spit / sputum

eki - fluid / juice / liquid / sap / secretion

Chinese Pinyin: tuòyè

Chinese Meaning: saliva

Parts:

tuò - saliva / to spit / spit on / spittle

yè(yì) - fluid / liquid / juice / sap

版權/權

August 21, 2012

Japanese Romaji: hanken

Japanese Meaning: copyright

Parts:

han(ban, pan) - edition / version / label / printing block / printing plate / impression

ken(gon) - authority / power / right (to do something)

Chinese Pinyin: bǎnquán

Chinese Meaning: copyright

Parts:

bǎn - edition / version / page (of newspaper) / section / a register / printing block / printing plate / board frame

quán - authority / power / right (to do something) / inherent rights / jurisdiction / influence / weigh (the significance, etc.) / assess / expedient way / alternative / expediency / temporary / for the time being

総額/總

August 22, 2012

Japanese Romaji: sougaku

Japanese Meaning: sum total / total amount / whole sum

Parts:

sou(su, sube, fusa) - all / full / general / total / whole / gross / tuft / tassel / bunch (of grapes, etc.) / section (of an orange, etc.)

gaku(hitai, nuka) - amount / sum (of money) / volume / forehead / brow / framed picture / plaque / tablet

Chinese Pinyin: zǒng'é

Chinese Meaning: total (amount or value)

Parts:

zǒng - total / all / overall / altogether / complete / head / chief / principal / general / central / always / to assemble / gather / collect / unite / in every case / at any rate / in any event / anyway / after all / sooner or later

é - amount / quota / specified number / forehead / frontal / top part of something / fixed / tablet / plaque / placard / inscribed board / horizontal tablet

*Note: 3 other variants of the first character are 摠總總 A variant of the second character is 額

殿堂

August 22, 2012

Japanese Romaji: dendou

Japanese Meaning: palace / palatial building / hall / edifice

Parts:

den(tono, dono, ten, shingari) - hall / mansion / palace / temple / feudal lord / Mr. / form of address
used for official letters and business letters, and in letters to inferiors / rear / rear unit guard / anchor
(man)

dou(tou) - hall / temple / shrine / public chamber / (prefix to building) magnificent

Chinese Pinyin: diàntáng

Chinese Meaning: palace / hall / temple buildings

Parts:

diàn - hall / palace / temple / bring up the rear

táng - (main) hall / government office / office / reception / large room for a specific purpose /
relationship between cousins etc. on the paternal side of a family / of the same clan / counter for sets
(or suites) of furniture, classes, etc.

含量

August 23, 2012

Japanese Romaji: ganryou

Japanese Meaning: content

Parts:

gan(fuku) - include / understand / cherish / bear in mind

ryou(haka) - amount / estimate / measure / quantity / weight / volume / portion (of food) / consider / surmise

Chinese Pinyin: hánliàng

Chinese Meaning: content / quantity contained

Parts:

hán - to keep / to contain / embody / include / cherish / endure / to bear / to harbour / to harbor / hold in mouth / to suck (keep in your mouth without chewing)

liàng(liáng) - capacity / quantity / amount / to estimate / appraise / evaluate / standard unit for measuring volume / counter word (in Chinese, known as a classifier or measure word) / abbreviation for 量詞, classifier (in Chinese grammar) / to measure / take a measurement / to gauge / to survey / deliberate / take into consideration

*Note: words in Chinese which are used to count things are technically known as “classifiers” or “measure words” (量詞 liàngcí). The equivalent in Japanese are known as “counter words” (助数詞 josūshi). I have been referring to them as counter words regardless of language.

旧宅/舊

August 23, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kyuutaku

Japanese Meaning: former residence

Parts:

kyuu(furu, moto) - former / ex- / used item / second-hand item / old / previous / original state / old
friend / old things / old times

taku - home / house / husband / our house / residence

Chinese Pinyin: jiùzhái

Chinese Meaning: former residence

Parts:

jiù - old / former / ancient / past / bygone / original / outdated / worn (with age) / used / second-hand
zhái - residence / dwelling / home / house / grave / (colloquial) to stay in a home / to hang around at
home

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese
character.

*Note 2: the slang Japanese term “Otaku” is derived from the second character

旋律

August 24, 2012

Japanese Romaji: senritsu

Japanese Meaning: melody / tune

Parts:

sen(tsumu) - go around / rotation

ritsu(richi, retsu) - control / gauge / regulation / law (especially ancient East Asian criminal code) / rhythm / (musical) pitch / (in traditional Eastern music) step (corresponding to a Western semitone) / six odd-numbered notes of the ancient chromatic scale / (Buddhism) vinaya (rules for the monastic community) / (abbreviation) Japanese seven-tone gagaku scale, similar to Dorian mode (corresponding to: re, mi, fa, so, la, ti, do) / (abbreviation) Ritsu (school of Buddhism) / (abbreviation) lushi (style of Chinese poem)

*Note: in Japanese, 螺旋 (screw, watch spring) can be read as “neji”

Chinese Pinyin: xuánlǚ

Chinese Meaning: melody / rhythm

Parts:

xuán(xuàn) - to revolve / move in orbit / a loop / a circle / spiral / spin / spinning / turning / to whirl / return / come back / immediately / soon / peel / pare / turn something on a lathe / at the time / as soon as / variant of 璇

lǚ - law / statute / principle / regulation / rule / bind by law / control or restrain / discipline / a series of standard bamboo tuning pitch pipes used in ancient music / a form in Chinese poetry - a stanza of eight lines

故障

August 24, 2012

Japanese Romaji: koshou

Japanese Meaning: breakdown / break / failure / fault / accident / out of order

Parts:

ko(furu, moto, yue) - cause / reason / therefore / consequently / circumstances / intentionally / especially / happenstance / the late (deceased) / former / ex-

shou(sawa) - harm / hinder / hurt

Chinese Pinyin: gùzhàng

Chinese Meaning: malfunction / breakdown / defect / shortcoming / fault / failure / impediment / error / bug (in software) / glitch / snag

Parts:

gù - happening / instance / incident / event / matter / reason / cause / because / intentional / willful / on purpose / knowingly / former / old / past / earlier / previous / ancient / antique / friend /

acquaintance / therefore / hence / consequently / (of people) to die / dead

zhàng - to block / to hinder / to obstruct / separate / shield / barricade / barrier / obstacle / screen

増設/増

August 25, 2012

Japanese Romaji: zousetsu

Japanese Meaning: extension / expansion / adding facilities or equipment

Parts:

zou(fu, ma) - add / augment / gain / increase / promote

setsu(shitsura, mou) - establishment / prepare / provision

Chinese Pinyin: zēngshè

Chinese Meaning: to add something new / to add on

Parts:

zēng - to increase / to expand / to add to / gain / augment / enlarge

shè - to set up / to arrange / to establish / to found / to build / to display / to lay out / furnish / provide / to plan / devise / particle of hypothesis / supposing that / what if / in case of

逆賊

August 25, 2012

Japanese Romaji: gyakuzoku

Japanese Meaning: rebel / traitor / insurgent

Parts:

gyaku(saka, geki) - inverted / opposite / reverse / converse (of a hypothesis, etc.) / wicked

zoku - burglar / thief / robber / rebel / traitor / insurgent

*Note 1: the first character has the reading “no” when in the verb 逆上せる (noboseru), which means “to feel dizzy”, “to have blood rush to one’s head”, or “to become conceited (it’s gone to his/her head)”.

*Note 2: 烏賊 (squid or cuttlefish) is read as “ika”

Chinese Pinyin: nìzéi

Chinese Meaning: renegade / traitor / bandit / traitorous scoundrel / usurper

Parts:

nì - contrary / counter / reverse / opposite / backwards / adverse / unfavourable / negative / to go against / disobey / offend / to oppose / to betray / to rebel / a rebel / traitor / beforehand / in advance / meet / welcome

zéi - thief / burglar / robber / bandit / traitor / evildoer / enemy / wily / deceitful / crafty / sly / cunning / evil / wicked / crooked / furtive / extremely

*Note 3: a variant of the second character is 賤

煙霧

August 26, 2012

Japanese Romaji: enmu

Japanese Meaning: haze / mist / fog / smog / smoke

Parts:

en(kemu, kemuri, keburī) - smoke / fumes

mu(kiri) - fog / mist / spray

Chinese Pinyin: yānwù

Chinese Meaning: smoke / fog / mist / haze / vapor / vapour / smog / fumes

Parts:

yān - smoke / soot / fume / mist / vapor / vapour / cigarette or pipe tobacco / cigarettes / tobacco plant
/ opium / (of the eyes) to be irritated by smoke

wù - fog / mist / vapor / vapour / fine spray

*Note: another variant of the first character is 菸; 烟 is also a variant in Japanese but a simplification in Chinese. The second character has two more variants: 霧霧

懸念

August 26, 2012

Japanese Romaji: ke'nen

Japanese Meaning: worry / fear / anxiety / concern

Parts:

ke(ka, kaka, ga, gaka, ken) - consult / depend / hang / suspend / install / 10%

nen(omo) - attention / care / desire / concern / wish / feeling / sense / idea / thought

Chinese Pinyin: xuánniàn

Chinese Meaning: suspense in a movie, play, etc. / a hook / concern for somebody's welfare

Parts:

xuán - to hang / to suspend / hoist / be hung / to worry / feel anxious / be concerned / public announcement / unresolved / outstanding / baseless / without foundation / far apart / disparate
niàn - to read / to study (a degree course) / attend school / to read out aloud / chant / recall / think of / to miss (somebody) / idea / remember / remembrance / idea / twenty (banker's anti-fraud numeral corresponding to 廿, 20)

*Note: another variant of the second character is 唸

左腕

August 27, 2012

Japanese Romaji: sawan / hidariude

Japanese Meaning: left arm / left-handed (baseball pitcher, "sawan" reading)

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 左手臂 (zuǒ shǒubì)

Parts:

sa(hidari) - left (direction) / left-hand side / leftist (politics) / left (especially in vertical Japanese writing) / the following

wan(ude, kaina) - arm (of the body) / ability / talent / skill / (kaina) (archaism) arm (especially the upper arm) / (kaina) counter used to measure the thickness of round objects

Chinese Pinyin: zuǒwàn

Chinese Meaning: left wrist

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 左手首 (hidari tekubi)

Parts:

zuǒ - left (direction) / left side / the Left (politics) / east / east side / unorthodox / differing / opposite / wrong / erroneous / mistaken / queer / improper / supporting / assist / be demoted / descend / inconvenience / inconvenient / unduly stubborn / disobey / disregard

wàn - wrist / arm

*Note: the first character is also a variant of 佐 (which is also a separate character)

牧畜

August 27, 2012

Japanese Romaji: bokuchiku

Japanese Meaning: stock-farming / stock raising / livestock farming / cattle breeding

Parts:

boku(maki) - breed / care for / feed / to shepherd / pasture / grazing land

chiku - livestock / domestic fowl and animals

Chinese Pinyin: mùchù

Chinese Meaning: raising livestock / animal husbandry

Parts:

mù - to herd / to breed livestock / tend cattle / to shepherd / pasture

chù(xù) - livestock / domesticated animal / domestic animal / to raise (animals) / to rear (animals) /

dumb creature / animal

脂粉

August 28, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shifun

Japanese Meaning: cosmetics / rouge and powder

Parts:

shi(abura, yani) - fat / grease / lard / tallow / gum / tar / resin / rosin / nicotine / sleep (in one's eyes, i.e. eye mucus)

fun(ko, kona) - dust / flour / powder / meal

Chinese Pinyin: zhīfěn

Chinese Meaning: cosmetics

Parts:

zhī - fat (of animals) / grease / lard / tallow / gum or sap of trees / resin / anoint / grease / lubricate / rouge (cosmetics)

fěn - powder / cosmetic face powder / flour / starch / food prepared from starch / noodles or pasta made from any kind of flour / rice noodles / white (color) / pink / whitewash / plaster / make up / doll up

*Note: doing a Japanese image search on Google with this word results in pictures of cockatiels (オカメインコ okameinko).

鑑賞

August 28, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kanshou

Japanese Meaning: aesthetic sense / appreciation (e.g. of art)

Parts:

kan(kagami, kanga) - model / pattern / specimen / learn from / take warning from

shou(ho) - praise / prize / reward / award

Chinese Pinyin: jiànshǎng

Chinese Meaning: to appreciate / to examine and admire

Parts:

jiàn - mirror / looking glass / to view / reflection / to reflect / shine / to inspect / to study / examine / scrutinize / to warn / example

shǎng - to bestow (a reward) / to give (to an inferior) / to grant / to hand down / a reward (bestowed by a superior) / to award / to appreciate (beauty) / view and admire / honour somebody with one's presence

*Note: three variants of the first character are 鑑 鑒 鑒

均衡

August 29, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kinkou

Japanese Meaning: equilibrium / balance

Parts:

kin(nara) - average / level / equalize / equally / gentle

kou - equilibrium / measuring rod / scale

Chinese Pinyin: jūnhéng

Chinese Meaning: equal / balanced / equilibrium / proportion / harmony

Parts:

jūn - equal / even / fair / impartial / uniform / all / also / without exception

héng - to weigh / weight / measure / to judge / assess / consider / weighing apparatus / beam of a steelyard

適切

August 29, 2012

Japanese Romaji: tekisetsu

Japanese Meaning: appropriate / adequate / proper / pertinent / relevance

Parts:

teki(kana) - capable / qualified / suitable / occasional / rare

setsu(ki, gi, sai) - cut / cut-off / be sharp / eager / earnest / ardent / kind / keen / acute

Chinese Pinyin: shìqiè

Chinese Meaning: apt / appropriate

Parts:

shì - to fit / suitable / proper / to match / just (right) / exactly / appropriate / apposite / just (now) / comfortable / at ease with oneself / well / to go / arrive at / reach / to follow / to pursue / be faithful to / only / by chance / accidentally / marry (said of a girl) / legal (wife, as opposed to concubines)

qiè(qiē) - to cut / to slice / chop / mince / carve / tangent (math) / definitely / absolutely (not) / eager / anxious / keen / all / whole / to correspond to / to conform to / accord with / close to / near to / be sure to / must / to grind / (scoffing or dismissive interjection) yeah, right

窃盗/竊盜

August 30, 2012

Japanese Romaji: settou

Japanese Meaning: theft / stealing / larceny / thief

Parts:

setsu(hiso) - private / secret / hushed / steal / stealth

tou(to, nusu) - steal / pilfer / rob

Chinese Pinyin: qièdào

Chinese Meaning: burglar

Parts:

qiè - to steal / pilfer / pinch / seize illegally / usurp / plagiarize / secretly / stealthily / furtively / thief / burglar / pilferer / (humble) I

dào - to steal / to rob / burgle / to plunder / thief / bandit / robber / burglar

*Note: The Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified versions of the Chinese character.

荒漠

August 30, 2012

Japanese Romaji: koubaku

Japanese Meaning: desolate (e.g. plains) / ruined

Parts:

kou(a, ara, susa) - rough / roughly / crude / raw / natural / wild / wild / laid waste / sparse / rude / flaw
(especially of a person) / leftovers (after filleting a fish) / rice chaff

baku - a desert / obscure / vague / wide

*Note: in Japanese, 益荒男 is read as "masurao"

Chinese Pinyin: huāngmò

Chinese Meaning: barren / desert / wilderness / wastes

Parts:

huāng - desolate / barren / waste / wasteland / a desert / shortage / scarce / scarcity / deficiency / to
neglect / be out of practice / absurd / unreasonable / incredible / uncultivated / famine / crop failure /
dissolute / self-indulgent

mò - a desert / unconcerned / aloof / indifferent / cool / 10⁻¹²

窒息

August 31, 2012

Japanese Romaji: chissoku

Japanese Meaning: suffocation / choking

Parts:

chitsu - obstruct / plug up

soku(i, iki, musu) - breath / breathing / respiration / tone / mood / son / interest (on money)

Chinese Pinyin: zhìxī

Chinese Meaning: to choke / to suffocate / to stifle

Parts:

zhì - to obstruct / to stop up / to block / stifle

xī(xí) - breath / rest / cease / end / put a stop to / news / interest (on money)

降臨

August 31, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kourin

Japanese Meaning: advent / descent

Parts:

kou(o, kuda, fu, bu, gou) - descend / fall / precipitate / surrender

rin(nozo) - attend / confront / to face / look to / meet / call on

Chinese Pinyin: jiànglín

Chinese Meaning: advent / to descend to / to arrive / to come / to befall / to fall / to descend upon

Parts:

jiàng(xiáng) - to drop / to fall / to come down / to descend / to lower / to reduce / to decline / down / to surrender / to capitulate / to concede / to subdue / to tame / vanquish

lín - to face / to overlook / look down from above / to arrive / to reach / be near / be on the point of / to draw near / to descend / to approach / to be (just) about to / just before / copy (a model of calligraphy, painting, etc)

*Note: another variant of the first character is 𨔵

駅伝/驛傳

September 1, 2012

Japanese Romaji: ekiden

Japanese Meaning: stagecoach / post-horse / (abbreviation) long-distance relay race

Parts:

eki - station

den(tsuta, tsuda, tsute, dzuta, ten) - communicate / report / transmit / follow / go along / walk along / legend / tradition / biography / life / method / way / horseback transportation and communication relay system used in ancient Japan / intermediary / influence / good offices / connections / someone to trust / go-between / pull

Chinese Pinyin: yìchuán

Chinese Meaning: relay post-horse mail service (in former times)

Parts:

yì - post horse / relay station

chuán(zhuàn) - to pass on / to spread / to hand down / to transmit / to propagate / to infect / to transfer / to transmit / to circulate / to summon / to conduct (electricity) / convey / express / show / biography / historical narrative / story / novel / commentaries / relay station

*Note: the Japanese term is more often used as an abbreviation for 駅伝競走 (ekiden kyouso), a long-distance relay race.

課程

September 1, 2012

Japanese Romaji: katei

Japanese Meaning: course / curriculum

Parts:

ka - lesson / chapter / section (in an organization) / department / division / counter for chapters (of a book)

tei(hodo) - amount / degree / extent / bounds / limits / distance / formula / law / indicates approximate amount or maximum / (particle) as much as

Chinese Pinyin: kèchéng

Chinese Meaning: course / curriculum / academic program

Parts:

kè - subject / course (of study) / class / lesson / classwork / to levy / tax / impose / sub-office / bureau / supervise / form of divination

chéng - degree / extent / rule / order / regulations / course / formula / form / pattern / sequence / measure / assess / journey / trip / distance / procedure / schedule / agenda / a general name of measurements of all kinds

輕傷/輕

September 2, 2012

Japanese Romaji: keishou

Japanese Meaning: minor injury

Parts:

kei(karu, karo, garu) - lightly / light / trifling / unimportant

shou(ita, kizu, jou) - a cut / gash / bruise / injury / scar / scratch / scrape / wound / chip / crack / nick / flaw / blemish / stain / defect / weakness / weak point / pain / hurt / impair / injure / stain (on one's reputation) / disgrace / dishonor / dishonour / (emotional) hurt / hurt feelings

*Note: in Japanese, 火傷 (to burn, to scald) is read as "yakedo".

Chinese Pinyin: qīngshāng

Chinese Meaning: lightly wounded / minor injuries / light injury / flesh wound

Parts:

qīng - light (weight) / of little weight / easy / gentle / mild / soft / tender / gently / softly / carefully / simple / base / mean / lowly / facile / reckless / frivolous / flippant / fickle / (to be) rash / impudent / small in number, degree, etc. / unstressed / relaxed / unburdened / unimportant / neutral / slight / belittle / make light of / neglect / ignore / underestimate / to disparage

shāng - to injure / injury / wound / a cut / fall ill from / make sick / grief / to grieve / distressed / impede / impediment / hurt (feelings)

省略

September 2, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shouryaku

Japanese Meaning: omission / abbreviation / abridgement / abridgment

Parts:

shou(kaeri, habu, sei) - conserve / saving / focus / government ministry / department / province (of China)

ryaku(habu, hobo) - abbreviation / omission / shorten / capture / plunder / outline / almost / roughly / approximately

Chinese Pinyin: shěnglüè

Chinese Meaning: to leave out / an omission

Parts:

shěng(xǐng) - to save / to economize / frugal / to do without / to omit / to leave out / remove / province / provincial / introspection / to examine oneself critically / inspect / observe / awareness / become conscious / wake up to / to visit (an elderly relative) / call on / ask after

lüè - plan / strategy / scheme / outline / summary / brief account / omit / delete / leave out / slightly / somewhat / a little / rather / to rob / to plunder / capture / seize / to summarize / approximately / roughly

*Note: a variant of the first character is 嗒. A variant of the second character is 畧

志願

September 3, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shigan

Japanese Meaning: aspiration / desire / wishing for / volunteering / application

Parts:

shi(kokorozashi, kokoroza) - aspire / hopes / intention / motive / will / plan / resolve / shilling

gan(nega, negai) - hope / wish / prayer / petition / request / vow

Chinese Pinyin: zhìyuàn

Chinese Meaning: aspiration / ambition / to volunteer

Parts:

zhì - aspiration / ambition / desire / ideal / interest / wish / the will / determination / purpose / be bent on doing something / make up one's mind to pursue some object / annals / records

yuàn - to hope / to wish / to desire / aspiration / want / ambition / hoped-for / be ready / willing / sincere / vow (made before a god)

*Note: in Chinese, the first character is also the simplified form of 誌 (zhì), meaning "sign", "mark", "to record", etc.

老齡/齡

September 3, 2012

Japanese Romaji: rourei

Japanese Meaning: advanced age / senility / latter part of life

Parts:

rou(o, fu) - grow old / old age / old person / old people / the old / the aged

rei(yowai, toshi) - (one's) age / instar

*Note: in Japanese, 老舗 ("shop of long standing" or "veteran") has the reading of "shinise";

海老 ("prawn", "shrimp", or "lobster", etc.) is read as "ebi". The term literally means "old people of the sea".

Chinese Pinyin: lǎolíng

Chinese Meaning: old age / aging / (the) aged / elderly / senior citizen / geriatric

Parts:

lǎo - old (of people) / aged / venerable (person) / experienced / of long standing / always / very / all the time / of the past / outdated / (of meat, etc.) tough / overcooked / stringy / stale (food or liquid) / not fresh / the youngest / parents / treat with reverence / dark (color) / prefix used before the surname of a person or a numeral indicating the order of birth of the children in a family or to indicate affection or familiarity / a particle indicating ordinal numbers to designate order of birth / a prefix used in conjunction with the name of several animals considered noxious or unpleasant

líng - age / years / length of experience, membership, etc. / length of time / duration

実施/實

September 4, 2012

Japanese Romaji: jissshi

Japanese Meaning: enforcement / implementation / putting into practice / carrying out / operation / working (parameters) / enactment / execution / put into effect

Parts:

jitsu(makoto, mi, mino, sane, jichi) - reality / truth / sincerity / honesty / fidelity / integrity / faith / confidence / devotion / trust / reliance / kindness / (good) result / fruit / nut / seed / stone / pit / (in broth) pieces of meat, vegetable, etc. / content / substance / essence / ingredients / core / tongue (piece of wood used to connect two boards)

shi(hodoko, se) - alms / apply bandages / administer first-aid

Chinese Pinyin: shíshī

Chinese Meaning: to implement / to carry out / initiate / bring into effect / put into effect

Parts:

shí - real / true / factual / sincere / honest / fulfilled / really / solid / concrete / substantial / tangible / fruit / seed / definitely

shī - to grant / to give / to bestow / hand out / to act / put into effect / execute / to carry out / apply / use / add / name

附属/屬

September 4, 2012

Japanese Romaji: fuzoku

Japanese Meaning: attached / belonging (to) / included / enclosed / affiliated / annexed / associated / subordinate / incidental / dependent / auxiliary

Parts:

fu(tsu) - affixed / append / attach / refer to

zoku(shoku) - affiliated / belong / genus / subordinate official

Chinese Pinyin: fùshǔ

Chinese Meaning: subsidiary / auxiliary / attached / affiliated / subordinate / subordinating

Parts:

fù - to add / to attach / enclose / append / to be close to / be near / to be attached / adhere to / rely on / depend on / comply with

shǔ(zhǔ) - category / class / type / kind / genus (taxonomy) / family members / dependents / to belong to / subordinate to / affiliated with / be governed by / be born in the year of (one of the 12 animals) / to be / to prove to be / to constitute / to join together / to fix one's attention on / to concentrate on / to compose (piece of writing) / instruct / direct

*Note: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

放逐

September 5, 2012

Japanese Romaji: houchiku

Japanese Meaning: expulsion / banishment / ejection / dismissal / ostracism

Parts:

hou(hana, pana, pi) - banish / to fire / shoot / liberate / release / set free / emit

chiku - accomplish / attain / commit / chase / pursue / drive away

Chinese Pinyin: fàngzhú

Chinese Meaning: to banish / to deport / to send into exile / to be marooned

Parts:

fàng - to release / to free / to let go / to liberate / set free / loosen / to let out / dismiss / take leave / to put / to place / to set / lay aside / to set off (fireworks) / let off / send out / distribute / hand out / lend for interest / dissipate / debauch / indulge / send into exile / exile / banish / (of flowers) blossom / come into bloom / enlarge / lengthen / let down / graze / pasture / put out to feed

zhú - to pursue / to chase / to follow / expel / drive out / deport / individually / one by one / gradually

湖畔

September 5, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kohan

Japanese Meaning: lake shore

Parts:

ko(mizuumi) - lake / a body of water surrounded by land

han(aze, kuro, hotori) - levee / paddy ridge / ridge between rice fields / causeway / (in the)

neighbourhood / neighborhood / vicinity / nearby / on the bank of / by the side of (e.g. a river, pond)

Chinese Pinyin: húpàn

Chinese Meaning: lakeside / lakefront

Parts:

hú - lake / bluish-green

pàn - bank (of a river, etc.) / shore / side / edge / field-path / boundary / boundary path dividing fields / border of a field

酷暑

September 6, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kokusho

Japanese Meaning: intense heat

Parts:

koku(hido, mugo) - cruel / severe / harsh / stringent / atrocious / unjust / rigorous / strict / unfair / body (esp. of food, wine, etc.) / weight / substance

sho(atsu) - hot / warm (weather) / sultry / summer heat / heat / midsummer

Chinese Pinyin: kùshǔ

Chinese Meaning: intense heat / extremely hot weather

Parts:

kù - ruthless / cruel / relentless / brutal / severe / harsh / strong (e.g. of wine) / stimulating (fragrance, etc.) / very / exceedingly / to an extreme degree / (of somebody or something) cool (loanword) / fashionably attractive or impressive

shǔ - heat / hot / hot weather / summer heat / midsummer

*Note: a variant of the second character is 暑

銳敏/銳敏

September 6, 2012

Japanese Romaji: eibin

Japanese Meaning: sharpness / keenness / sensitiveness / mental acumen

Parts:

ei(surudo) - edge / pointed / sharp / sharpness / violent / sharp weapon / blade / fine soldier

bin(sato, zato) - agile / alert / cleverness

Chinese Pinyin: ruìmǐn

Chinese Meaning: acute / astute / perceptive

Parts:

ruì - acute / sharp / keen / pointed / vigor / vitality / energetic / sensitive / rapidly / suddenly / drastically

mǐn - quick / fast / nimble / agile / swift / clever / smart / intelligent / wise

*Note: another variant of the second character is 敏

盛況

September 7, 2012

Japanese Romaji: seikyou

Japanese Meaning: success / prosperity / thriving / flourishing / an event or business that attracts many people and is very successful

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 成功 (chénggōng)

Parts:

sei(saka, mo, jou) - prosper / boom / copulate

kyou(iwan, ma) - condition / situation

*Note: the Japanese meaning is usually used in cases where the cause of success is the presence of a large group of people (e.g. at an exhibition, marketplace, concert, etc.)

Chinese Pinyin: shèngkuàng

Chinese Meaning: grand occasion

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 壮大な行事 (soudaina gyōji)

Parts:

shèng(chéng) - flourishing / abundant / growing / prosperous / exuberant / vigorous / energetic / aggressive / magnificent / grand / popular / common / widespread / deep / profound / lavish / extensively / to hold / to contain / to fill / filling / put in a container / wax / waxing / to ladle / to pick up with a utensil / accommodate / have a capacity of

kuàng - situation / condition / circumstances / moreover / furthermore / besides / much less / let alone / not to mention / compare

採掘

September 7, 2012

Japanese Romaji: saikutsu

Japanese Meaning: mining

Parts:

sai(to) - take / pick / fetch / take up

kutsu(ho) - dig / delve / excavate

Chinese Pinyin: cǎijué

Chinese Meaning: mining / excavation / dig out

Parts:

cǎi - to pick / to pluck / to collect / to select / to choose / to adopt / to gather / excavate / dig for

jué - dig / excavate

*Note: a variant of the first character is 采. This is also the simplified Chinese version of this character itself, and a separate Japanese character altogether.

超低

September 8, 2012

Japanese Romaji: choutei

Japanese Meaning: very low (deep, cold, etc.) / ultra-low / ultra- / infra- / hyper-

Parts:

chou(ko) - super- / ultra- / hyper- / extra- / mega- / meta- / para- / trans- / very / really / transcend /
over / more than

tei(hiku) - short / lower / humble

Chinese Pinyin: chāodī

Chinese Meaning: ultra-low

Parts:

chāo - super- / ultra- / hyper- / to exceed / to overtake / to surpass / excel / jump over / leap over / to
transcend / go beyond / rise above / to pass / to cross

dī - low / beneath / to lower / to bow / bend / to let droop / to hang down / to incline

秒針

September 8, 2012

Japanese Romaji: byoushin

Japanese Meaning: second hand (of clock)

Parts:

byou - second (1/60 minute or degree) / seconds (duration)

shin(hari, bari) - needle / pin / (fishing) hook / stinger / thorn / hand (e.g. clock, etc.) / pointer / staple (for stapler) / needlework / sewing / malice / counter for stitches

Chinese Pinyin: miǎozhēn

Chinese Meaning: second hand (of clock)

Parts:

miǎo - second (1/60 minute or degree) / seconds (duration) / beard of grain or corn

zhēn - needle / needle-like object / pin / probe / tack / acupuncture / injection / a shot / stitch

*Note: 2 variants of the second character are 鍼 and 箴

余震/餘

September 9, 2012

Japanese Romaji: yoshin

Japanese Meaning: earthquake aftershock

Parts:

yo(ama, anma) - remainder / surplus / too much / over / more than / other / (archaism) formal or oratory first person pronoun / I / myself

shin(furu) - quake / shake / shiver / quiver / tremble / zhen (one of the trigrams of the I Ching: thunder, east, ䷳)

Chinese Pinyin: yúzhèn

Chinese Meaning: earthquake aftershock

Parts:

yú - remainder / extra / surplus / excess / the rest / remaining / balance / (following numerical value) or more / in excess of (some number) / complement of a number or figure / odd / residue (math) / remainder after division / after / I / me

zhèn - to shake / to vibrate / to jolt / to quake / shock / tremor / excite / be greatly excited / shocked / be deeply astonished / zhen (one of the trigrams of the I Ching: thunder, east, ䷳)

*Note: the Japanese version of the first character is also one of the simplified versions of the Chinese character (the other one is 餘). In Chinese, the Japanese version also exists as a separate traditional character (余 yú).

徹底

September 9, 2012

Japanese Romaji: tettei

Japanese Meaning: thoroughness / completeness / consistency

Parts:

tetsu(too) - clear / penetrate / pierce / strike home / sit up (all night)

tei(soko) - base (logarithmic, exponential, number system, etc.) / radix / base (triangle, cone, cylinder, etc.) / bottom / depth / sole / bottom price / type / kind / sort / extent / degree

Chinese Pinyin: chèdǐ

Chinese Meaning: thorough / thoroughly / complete / thoroughgoing

Parts:

chè - thorough / complete / exhaustive / penetrating / penetrate / pierce / to pervade / to pass through

dǐ(de) - background / ground / foundation / bottom / underneath / underside / base / end (of the month, year, etc.) / ins and outs / heart of the matter / the end of a period of time / towards the end of (last month) / rough draft / master copy / remnants / dregs / (equivalent to 的 as a possessive particle)

*Note: a Chinese variant of this word is 澈底

煩悶

September 10, 2012

Japanese Romaji: hanmon

Japanese Meaning: worry / agony

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 苦楚 (kǔchǔ)

Parts:

han(urusa, wazura, bon) - annoy / irksome / nuisance / pain / trouble / anxiety / worry / ill

mon(modu) - be in agony / worry

Chinese Pinyin: fánmèn

Chinese Meaning: moody / gloomy / mope / to be unhappy / oppressive / anguish

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 憂鬱 (yuuutsu)

Parts:

fán - to feel vexed / to bother / to trouble / troublesome / annoy / worry / annoying / superfluous and confusing / edgy

mèn(mēn) - bored / depressed / gloomy / melancholy / sealed / airtight / tightly closed / stuffy / muffled (sound) / shut indoors / to smother / to cover tightly

*Note: depending on the context, both the Chinese meaning and the Japanese meaning can be the same.

追隨/隨

September 10, 2012

Japanese Romaji: tsuizui

Japanese Meaning: follow

Parts:

tsui(o, oi) - chase / pursue / follow / drive away / meanwhile

zui(shitaga) - all / both / during / while / follow / notwithstanding / comply / obey / submit to / though / at the mercy of (the waves)

*Note 1: the Japanese term is generally used in terms of following things such as ideas or ideals in a metaphoric sense rather than physical objects (e.g. follow in someone's footsteps, follow suit, etc.)

Chinese Pinyin: zhuīsuí

Chinese Meaning: to follow / to accompany / to pursue

Parts:

zhuī(duī) - to chase after / run after / pursue / to seek / go after / hunt for / to track / court (a female) / to woo / to do one's utmost to seek or procure something / trace / look into / get to the bottom of / to recall / think back / do something retroactively / expel / to sculpt / to carve / (archaism) musical instrument

suí - to follow / to trace / come after / to accompany / to comply with / listen to / submit to / varying according to... / to allow / let (it go, it be, etc.) / resemble / look alike / subsequently / then

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 3: another variant of the second character is 隋

古城

September 11, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kojou

Japanese Meaning: old castle / old fortress

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 古城堡 (gǔ chéngbǎo)

Parts:

ko(furu, inishie) - old (of objects) / used / previous / second-hand item / the past / ancient times / antiquity

jou(shiro, jiro, sei, ki) - castle / fortress

Chinese Pinyin: gǔchéng

Chinese Meaning: ancient city / a temple

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 古都 (koto)

Parts:

gǔ - ancient / old (of objects) / classic / antiquated / antiquity / paleo- / not following current customs or practices

chéng - city / town / municipality / city walls / fortified settlement / defensive wall / fortification / (archaic) castle / fort / large commercial centre

*Note: the pictures are of Himeji Castle (Japan) and the city of Ping Yao (China).

型式

September 11, 2012

Japanese Romaji: katashiki

Japanese Meaning: model (e.g. of a vehicle) / type

Parts:

kata(gata, kei) - model / type (of machine, goods, etc.) / style / pattern / mould / mold / template / form
(i.e. customary procedure) / size (i.e. clothing, shoes)

shiki - expression / formula / equation / form / ceremony / function / rite / ritual / method / type / style
/ system

Chinese Pinyin: xíngshì

Chinese Meaning: type / pattern / version / style

Parts:

xíng - model / type (e.g. blood type) / pattern / mold / standard / law

shì - type / model / form / pattern / example / style / fashion / (grammar) mood / mode / system /
formula / rule / ceremony

芳香

September 12, 2012

Japanese Romaji: houkou

Japanese Meaning: fragrance / aroma / perfume / sweet smell / balm

Parts:

hou(kaguwa, kanba) - perfume / fragrant / balmy / favorable

kou(kaguwa, ka, kao, kyou) - smell (especially a good smell) / fragrance / scent / aroma / perfume /
incense / spear (shogi) / lance

Chinese Pinyin: fāngxiāng

Chinese Meaning: fragrant / aromatic / perfume / balmy / sweetness / redolence

Parts:

fāng - fragrant / aromatic / sweet-smelling / virtuous / virtue / honour / honor / good reputation /
flower / beautiful / your (honorific)

xiāng - fragrant / sweet-smelling / aromatic / balmy / tasty / delicious / savory / appetizing / (to eat)
with relish / beautiful / fair / sound (sleep) / perfume / spice / balm / incense stick / incense / joss

*Note: a variant of the second character is 𣎵

岩穴

September 12, 2012

Japanese Romaji: iwa'ana

Japanese Meaning: cavern / grotto

Parts:

iwa(gan) - rock / crag / boulder / cliff

ana(ketsu) - hole / slit / aperture / cave / cavern / den / lair / burrow / pit / deficit / loss / shortage / missing person (in a team, meeting, etc.) / vacancy / opening / flaw / defect / profitable place (or item, etc.) not well known by others / upset victory (with a large payoff) / acupuncture point

Chinese Pinyin: yánxué

Chinese Meaning: cave / grotto

Parts:

yán - rock / boulder / cliff / mountain

xué(xuè) - cave / cavern / den / burrow / sett / lair / cavity / hole / acupuncture point

*Note: variants of the first character are 巖巖崑. The first character is also the Chinese simplified form of 巖

偏狭/狭

September 13, 2012

Japanese Romaji: henkyou

Japanese Meaning: narrow-mindedness / intolerance / illiberality / narrowness

Parts:

hen(katayo, hitoe) - biased / inclining / partial / side / left-hand radical of a character

kyou(sa, seba, sema) - narrow / tight / cramped / to contract

Chinese Pinyin: piānxiá

Chinese Meaning: narrow-minded / prejudiced

Parts:

piān - to lean / to slant / inclined to one side / oblique / prejudiced / partial / biased / unfair / to deviate from average / to stray from the intended line / stubbornly / persistently / deliberately / wilfully / uncommon / rare / outlying / contrary to expectations / subordinate / assistant / left-hand side of a character

xiá - narrow / limited / cramped / narrow-minded / to pinch / contracted

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: another variant of the second character is 陝

炎症

September 13, 2012

Japanese Romaji: enshou

Japanese Meaning: inflammation / irritation

Parts:

en(honoo, homura) - blaze / flame / inflammation / -itis (indicating inflammatory disease)

shou - illness / symptoms

*Note 1: 陽炎 (heat haze) has a special reading of “kagerou”

Chinese Pinyin: yánzhèng

Chinese Meaning: inflammation

Parts:

yán - blaze / flame / hot / scorching / burning / inflammation / -itis (indicating inflammatory disease)

zhèng - illness / disease / ailment / symptom (of disease)

*Note 2: the second character is also the simplified Chinese version and a variant of 癰

詐欺

September 14, 2012

Japanese Romaji: sagi

Japanese Meaning: fraud / swindle / graft

Parts:

sa(itsuwa) - deceive / lie / pretend / falsehood

gi(azamu) - cheat / deceit / delude

Chinese Pinyin: zhàqī

Chinese Meaning: fraud / deception

Parts:

zhà - to cheat / to swindle / defraud / deceive / to pretend / to trick / to feign / to fake / bluff / to draw somebody out / to try to extract information by deceit or bluff

qī - to deceive / to cheat / swindle / double-cross / impose on / take unfair advantage of / insult / to bully / disregard the dictates of one's own conscience

統制

September 14, 2012

Japanese Romaji: tousei

Japanese Meaning: regulation / control

Parts:

tou(su) - governing / overall / ruling / relationship

sei - laws / regulation / control / rule / government / system / organization / organisation /
establishment / imperial command / suppression / restraint / holding back

Chinese Pinyin: tǒngzhì

Chinese Meaning: to control

Parts:

tǒng - govern / command / control / to rule / to gather / to unite / to unify / whole / wholly / totally /
completely / generally / all / succession / consecutive generations / from generation to generation

zhì - system / standard / establish / set up / to institute / to control / to regulate / overpower / prevail /
used before the signature in letter writing to indicate the writer is in mourning

*Note 1: the second character is also the simplified Chinese version and a variant of 製

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 統

素材

September 15, 2012

Japanese Romaji: sozai

Japanese Meaning: raw materials / subject matter

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 材料 (cáiliào) or 素材 (sùcái)

Parts:

so(moto, shirou, su) - origin / source / base / basis / foundation / root / elementary / principle / cause / ingredient / material / original cost (or capital, principal, etc.) / (plant) root / (tree) trunk / handle (chopsticks, brush, etc.) / grip / plain / unadorned / undecorated / naked / uncovered / unadulterated / plain, white silk / prime (number)

zai - (raw) material / ingredients / log / lumber / timber / wood / talent / man of talent / genius

Chinese Pinyin: sùcái

Chinese Meaning: source material (in literature and art)

Parts:

sù - essence / nature / element / constituent / plain / simple / native / unprocessed / unadorned / natural-colored / white / raw silk / usually / always / ordinarily / ever / formerly / normally / vegetarian (food)

cái - material / stuff / timber / talent / ability / aptitude / a capable individual / properties of a substance / coffin

*Note: the Chinese term refers specifically to intangible source material (e.g. the source for books, scripts, songs, etc.) For physical raw materials (e.g. stone, paper, cotton, food, etc.), 材料 is used. The Japanese term can refer to intangible source material or tangible materials.

賭博

September 15, 2012

Japanese Romaji: tobaku

Japanese Meaning: gambling

Parts:

to(ka) - a bet / gamble / wager

baku(haku) - command / esteem / Dr. / Ph. D. / win acclaim / exhibition / exposition / fair

Chinese Pinyin: dǔbó

Chinese Meaning: to gamble

Parts:

dǔ - to bet / to gamble / wager / compete

bó - extensive / abundant / ample / plentiful / wide / vast / broad / rich / knowledgeable / well-informed / erudite / obtain / aim / to win / gain (a favour) / barter for / to get / to gamble / play games

*Note: 博士 means “doctor” (someone with a PhD, etc.) in both languages. It has a specific Japanese reading (hakase) and a normal Chinese reading (bóshì).

猛烈

September 16, 2012

Japanese Romaji: mouretsu

Japanese Meaning: violent / vehement / raging / stout / intense / spirited / stormy / extreme / strong / driving (rain) / blistering (heat) / ardent / furious / impetuosity / feverish

Parts:

mou(take, mo) - greatly energetic / ferocious / become furious / fierce / rave / rush / strength / wildness / extreme / severe

retsu(hage) - ardent / extreme / furious / severe / vehement / violent

Chinese Pinyin: měngliè

Chinese Meaning: violent / fierce / vehement / vigorous

Parts:

měng - ferocious / fierce / violent / savage / cruel / bold / energetic / vigorous / powerful / abrupt / suddenly / quickly

liè - ardent / intense / fierce / fiery / violent / vehement / extreme / strong / acute / stern / upright / staunch / unyielding / martyr / to give one's life for a noble cause / exploits / achievements / merits

*Note: a variant of the first character is 勐

深淺/淺

September 16, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shinsen

Japanese Meaning: depth / shade (of color)

Parts:

shin(fuka, buka, mi) - deep / close / thick / profound / heighten / intensify / strengthen / beautiful /

august (of grandeur)

sen(asa) - shallow / superficial / frivolous / shameful / wretched

Chinese Pinyin: shēnqiǎn

Chinese Meaning: deep or shallow / depth / shade (of color) / seriousness / limits of decorum / sense of propriety

Parts:

shēn - deep / depth / profound / mysterious / difficult / abstruse / close / intimate / far / very / extremely / extreme / dark (of color, water, etc.) / late / close

qiǎn(jiǎn) - shallow / not deep / superficial / light (color) / easy / simple / narrow and small (land) / sound of moving water

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the second character is similar to the simplified version of the Chinese character, but has one more stroke.

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 深

漁具

September 17, 2012

Japanese Romaji: gyogu

Japanese Meaning: fishing tackle / fishing gear / fishing implement

Parts:

gyo(asa, ryou) - fishery / fishing / catch

gu(sona, tsubusa) - furniture / tool / utensil / means / ingredients / base / possess / counter for armor, suits, sets of, etc.

Chinese Pinyin: yújù

Chinese Meaning: fishing tackle / fishing gear / fishing implement

Parts:

yú - to fish / fisherman / to seize / to pursue / acquire forcibly

jù - tool / device / utensil / equipment / implement / instrument / talent / ability / capability / to possess / to have / be eligible / to provide / to furnish / to fix / to draw up / write out / to sign / to state / counter for devices, coffins, dead bodies, etc.

次第

September 17, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shidai

Japanese Meaning: dependent upon / as soon as / immediately (upon) / order / precedence / program / programme / agenda / circumstances

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 依頼 (yīlài) / 即刻 (jíkè) / 順序 (shùnxù) / 事情 (shìqing)

Parts:

shi(tsugi, tsu, ji) - the next one / order / sequence / below / following / subsequent / stage / station / hypo- (i.e. containing an element with low valence) / counter for order, sequence, number of times, etc.

dai(tei) - ordinal prefix (indicating first, second, etc.) / No. / residence

Chinese Pinyin: cìdì

Chinese Meaning: order / sequence / one after another / grade / condition

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 順番 (junban)

Parts:

cì - next in sequence / order / sequence / succession / grade / grading / second / the second (day, time, etc.) / secondary / vice- / deputy / sub- / infra- / inferior quality / lower / substandard / second rate / place where one stops for a rest on a trip / place / stop at a place / stopover / at (the table, feast, etc.) / by / in the midst / hypo- (chemistry) / counter for enumerated events (time, occasion, occurrence, etc.)

dì - ordinal prefix (indicating first, second, etc.) / sequence / number / grade / degree / place (e.g. standing on an examination)

*Note: this word has lots of possible uses, but I tried to incorporate the most commonly used ones.

沐浴

September 18, 2012

Japanese Romaji: mokuyoku

Japanese Meaning: bathing / ablution

Parts:

moku - wash

yoku(a) - bathe / bask in / be favored with

*Note 1: 浴衣 is read as "yukata"

Chinese Pinyin: mù yù

Chinese Meaning: to take a bath / to bathe / to immerse

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 浴びる (abiru)

Parts:

mù - to bathe / to cleanse / wash / to wash one's hair / to receive / to be given

yù - bath / to bathe / to wash

*Note 2: the Chinese word also includes the meaning of being immersed in a certain type of environment (e.g. bathed in sunlight, surrounded by music, basking in your glory, etc.) The Japanese word is limited to bathing in water and sometimes has religious connotations.

命令

September 18, 2012

Japanese Romaji: meirei

Japanese Meaning: order / command / commandment / decree / directive / adjuration / direction / (software) instruction / statement

Parts:

mei(inochi, mikoto, myou) - life / life force / lifetime / lifespan / fate / destiny / decree / command / an order / appoint / most important thing / foundation / core / (after the name of a god or a noble) Lord / Highness / the honorable / the exalted / the beloved / dearly beloved / the spoken words of the emperor or a noble / (archaism) (derogatory) you / that person

rei(ryou) - command / decree / orders / dictation / (archaism) administrative and civil code / ancient laws

Chinese Pinyin: mìnglìng

Chinese Meaning: order / command / behest / mandate / dictate

Parts:

mìng - life / lifespan / fate / destiny / one's lot / luck / an order / command / decree / instruction / to assign a name, title, etc.

lìng(lǐng, líng) - to order / to command / decree / an order / directive / warrant / writ / to cause / to allow / to make something happen / arouse / virtuous / nice / good / excellent / commandant / magistrate / government position (old) / ancient official title / honorific title / your esteemed / your good / beautiful / season / short song set to a fixed tune / counter for a ream of paper

懷鄉/懷鄉

September 19, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kaikyō

Japanese Meaning: homesickness / longing for home / nostalgia

Parts:

kai(ida, omo, nazu, natsu, futokoro) - become attached to / miss someone / yearn / feelings / heart / mind / bosom / breast / (breast) pocket / purse / handbag / a surrounded place (e.g. deep in the mountains)

kyō(sato, gou) - hometown / native place / village / hamlet / district / countryside / country / country home / 50-home township (comprised of 2-3 neighbourhoods) / rural township (of China)

Chinese Pinyin: huáixiāng

Chinese Meaning: homesick

Parts:

huái - bosom / chest / breast / heart / mind / feeling / to think of / cherish / to harbor in one's mind / (to) harbour / carry in bosom / to miss / to long for / to conceive (a child)

xiāng - countryside / country / rural area / native place / hometown or home village / birthplace / village / rural township (of China)

*Note: another variant of the first character is 懷. Another variant of the second character is 鄉

暴徒

September 19, 2012

Japanese Romaji: bouto

Japanese Meaning: insurgent / rioters / a mob

Parts:

bou(aba, baku) - outburst / outrage / rave / violence / cruelty / force / fret

to(ada, itazura, kachi, tada) - emptiness / futility / uselessness / vain / transient / ephemeral thing / frivolous / vanity / junior / gang / people / party / set / foot soldier (Edo period) / samurai on foot / (archaism) going on foot / walking / ordinary / common / usual / free of charge / unaffected / as is / safe / only / merely / just / simply / but / however / nonetheless

Chinese Pinyin: bàotú

Chinese Meaning: bandit / ruffian / rioter / thug / mob / mobster / hoodlum / gangster / desperado

Parts:

bào(pù) - sudden / violent / cruel / fierce / brutal / tyrannical / to show / to expose / come out / reveal / to injure / ruin / spoil / corrode / hot-tempered / quick-tempered

tú - disciple / apprentice / follower / believer / go (walk, be) on foot / bare / empty / barehanded / unarmed / to no avail / merely / only / futile / in vain / only / prison sentence / imprisonment / (pejorative) guy / fellow / gang

等級

September 20, 2012

Japanese Romaji: toukyuu

Japanese Meaning: grade / class / order / rank / degree / (astronomical) magnitude

Parts:

tou(nado, hito, ra) - class / order / rank / quality / equal / similar / et cetera / and so forth / and the like / the likes of / or so / and so on / pluralizing suffix

kyuu - class (school) / grade / rank / school

Chinese Pinyin: děngjí

Chinese Meaning: grade / rank / class / degree / status / stratum

Parts:

děng - class / rank / grade / equal to / same as / plural number / to wait for / to await / et cetera / and so on / and the like / et al. / sort / kind / type / after / as soon as / once

jí - class / level / grade / degree / rank / step (of stairs) / counter for steps, levels

隠匿/隠

September 20, 2012

Japanese Romaji: intoku

Japanese Meaning: concealment

Parts:

in(kaku, on) - conceal / concealment / cover / hide / hiding

toku(kakuma) - hide / shelter / shield

Chinese Pinyin: yǐnnì

Chinese Meaning: to cover up / to hide / to conceal / go into hiding / lie low / to evade

Parts:

yǐn(yìn) - secret / hidden / hide / conceal / concealed / cover up / latent / dormant / obscure / secret /
privacy / seclusion / to lean upon

nì - to hide / go into hiding / conceal

居住

September 21, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kyojuu

Japanese Meaning: residence / dwelling / inhabit / reside / abode

Parts:

kyo(i, o, ko) - exist / to be / being (somewhere) / live with / reside / residence / sitting

juu(su, zu) - dwell / inhabit / live / dwelling / living / reside

*Note: いる (iru, "to be") and its humble form おる (oru) can be written with the first character in place of the "い" and "お".

Chinese Pinyin: jūzhù

Chinese Meaning: to reside / to dwell / to live in a place / resident in

Parts:

jū(jī) - to be (in a certain position) / live / dwell / to reside / inhabit / occupy / abode / sit / to store up / to be at a standstill / stay put / residence / house / dwelling / restaurant / counter for bedrooms

zhù - to live at / to dwell / to reside / to stay / to inhabit / to lodge / to stop / to cease / (suffix indicating firmness, steadiness, or coming to a halt)

代替

September 21, 2012

Japanese Romaji: daitai / daigae

Japanese Meaning: substitution / alternation / alternative / substitute

Parts:

dai(ka, ga, shiro, jiro, yo, tai) - change / convert / replace / substitute / substitution / (after a name)
representative of / on behalf of / (an) age / generation / reign / period / era / world / society / material /
price / charge / cost / fee / fare / rate / rent / margin / area required for something / etc. / switchboard
phone number / counter for decades of ages, eras / counter for generations

tai(ka, ga, kae, gae) - exchange / per- / spare / substitute

*Note: 為替 is read as “kawase” or “gawase”

Chinese Pinyin: dàitì

Chinese Meaning: instead / to replace / to substitute for / to cover for / to take the place of / to fill in

Parts:

dài - to substitute / to act on behalf of others / an equivalent / to replace / replacement / take the place
of / generation / dynasty / ancient kingdom / (an) age / period / (historical) era / (geological) eon

tì - to substitute for / to take the place of / to replace / change / for / on behalf of / to stand in for /
decay / decline

脳髓/腦髓

September 22, 2012

Japanese Romaji: nouzui

Japanese Meaning: brain

Parts:

nou(nazuki) - brain / brains / mind / memory / (archaism) skull, head

zui(nazuki) - marrow / medulla / pith / (archaism) skull, head

Chinese Pinyin: nǎosǔi

Chinese Meaning: brain / brain tissue / gray matter / medulla

Parts:

nǎo - brain / mind / head / essence

suǐ - bone marrow / essence / substances / quintessence / pith (soft interior of plant stem)

*Note: another variant of the first character is 腦 Two more variants of the second character are 髓

秋涼

September 22, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shuuryou

Japanese Meaning: coolness of autumn / cool autumn wind / eighth lunar month

Parts:

shuu(aki) - autumn / fall (season)

ryou(suzu) - nice and cool / refreshing

Chinese Pinyin: qiūliáng

Chinese Meaning: the coolness of autumn / cool autumn days

Parts:

qiū - autumn / fall (season) / time / period / year / season / ripening of grains / harvest time

liáng - cool / cold / cool place / desolate / forlorn / god-forsaken / disheartened / depressed / discouraged / disappointed / let something cool off

*Note: 3 variants of the first character are 穉穉𪔐 In Chinese, the first character is also the simplified version of 鞦 (qiū, a swing).

遭遇

September 23, 2012

Japanese Romaji: souguu

Japanese Meaning: encounter / come across

Parts:

sou(a) - encounter / meet / join / association / party / interview

guu(a, tama) - receive / deal with / interview / entertain / treat

Chinese Pinyin: zāoyù

Chinese Meaning: to meet with / to encounter / (bitter or unfortunate) experience / to befall

Parts:

zāo - to meet by chance (usually with misfortune) / suffer / come across / meet with / encounter /
counter for events (time, turn, incident)

yù - to meet / come across / to encounter / run into / to treat / treatment / to receive / opportunity /
chance / luck / meeting of minds / win confidence (of a superior, king, etc.) / rival / match with

禍根

September 23, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kakon

Japanese Meaning: root of evil / source of trouble

Parts:

ka(wazawai) - calamity / catastrophe / misfortune / curse / evil

kon(ne) - root (of a plant / tooth, hair, etc. / origin, etc.) / center (pimple, etc.) / source / origin / cause / basis / foundation / one's true nature / (fishing) reef / perseverance / persistence / stick-to-itiveness / radical (chemistry)

Chinese Pinyin: huògēn

Chinese Meaning: root of the trouble / cause of the ruin

Parts:

huò - disaster / misfortune / calamity / ruin / damage

gēn - root (of a plant / tooth, hair, etc. / origin, etc. / math) / origin / source / cause / basis / foundation / completely / thoroughly / radical (chemistry) / counter for long slender objects (cigarettes, guitar strings, sticks, etc.)

*Note: two variants of the first character are 禍 and 禍

洋傘

September 24, 2012

Japanese Romaji: yougasa

Japanese Meaning: (Western-style) umbrella / parasol

Parts:

you - ocean / Western-style

gasa(kasa, karakasa, san) - umbrella / parasol / paper umbrella

Chinese Pinyin: yángsǎn

Chinese Meaning: Western-style umbrella / (British) brolly

Parts:

yáng - ocean / sea / vast / foreign / Western / Occidental / imported / silver dollar or coin

sǎn - umbrella / parasol / parachute

*Note: a variant of the second character is 伞

短剣/劍

September 24, 2012

Japanese Romaji: tanken

Japanese Meaning: short sword / dagger / stiletto / hour hand (of clock)

Parts:

tan(mijika) - short / brief / shorten / brevity / defect / fault / lack / weak point / point disadvantages / minor (music)

ken(tsurugi) - sword / saber / sabre / blade / bayonet / swordsmanship / stinger / ovipositor / dart / clock hand

Chinese Pinyin: duǎnjiàn

Chinese Meaning: dagger

Parts:

duǎn - short / brief / deficient / to lack / lacking / want / owe / weak point / fault / shortcomings / mistakes

jiàn - sword / dagger / saber / sabre / counter for blows of a sword

*Note: the second character has at least 6 other variants: 劍 劒 劔 劔 劔 鉞 The simplified Chinese version is 剑 More variants can be found here:

<http://www.orientaloutpost.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=3734>

脱稿/脱

September 25, 2012

Japanese Romaji: dakkou

Japanese Meaning: completion of a manuscript / finishing writing

Parts:

datu(nu) - de- (indicating reversal, removal, etc.) / undress / take off / removing / get rid of / be left out / escape from

kou - manuscript / copy / draft / version / straw

Chinese Pinyin: tuōgǎo

Chinese Meaning: to complete a draft / to put out a manuscript

Parts:

tuō - undress / to take off / peel off / strip off / to shed / come off / remove / get rid of / cast off / slough off / leave off / get out of / to escape from / to get away from / omit / leave out / miss out (words)

gǎo - manuscript / draft / rough copy / article / piece of writing / contribution / stalk of grain / straw / stems of crops

*Note: 2 variants of the second character are 藁藁

溶劑/劑

September 25, 2012

Japanese Romaji: youzai

Japanese Meaning: solvent / solution / flux

Parts:

you(to) - melt / thaw / dissolve

zai - dose / drug / medicine / agent (chemicals) / (chemical) substance

Chinese Pinyin: róngjì

Chinese Meaning: solvent

Parts:

róng - melt / to dissolve / soluble / overflowing with

jì - dose / medicinal preparation

養鶏/雞

September 26, 2012

Japanese Romaji: youkei

Japanese Meaning: chicken farming / poultry raising / poultry farming

Parts:

you(yashina) - nurture / foster / bring up / to rear / develop

kei(tori, dori, niwatori) - chicken / chicken meat

Chinese Pinyin: yǎngjī

Chinese Meaning: to raise chickens

Parts:

yǎng - to raise (animals) / to bring up (children) / to keep (pets) / to rear / to grow (something) / to support / sustain / provide for / to breed / to give birth to / keep (a family) / nourish / cultivate (one's mind) / educate / nurse (a wound or illness) / rest / convalescence / recuperate / foster / adoptive / adopted / oxygen

jī - chicken / hen / cock / poultry / domestic fowl / (slang) prostitute / a prostitute or a woman in a sexual capacity

*Note: 2 variants of the first character are 養 and 養. Another variant of the second character is 雞

怠惰

September 26, 2012

Japanese Romaji: taida

Japanese Meaning: laziness / idleness / sloth

Parts:

tai(okota, nama, daru) - laziness / neglect

da - laziness / lazy

Chinese Pinyin: dàiduò

Chinese Meaning: laziness / idleness / slothful / indolent / inactive

Parts:

dài - idle / lazy / slack / lax / negligent / neglect / remiss / careless / disrespectful / slighting

duò - lazy / idle / indolent / careless

*Note: a variant of the second character is 嬾

斜塔

September 27, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shatou

Japanese Meaning: leaning tower

Parts:

sha(nana, hasu) - slanting / diagonal / oblique

tou(tatsu) - tower / steeple / spire / turret / pagoda / dagoba / stupa

Chinese Pinyin: xiétǎ

Chinese Meaning: leaning tower

Parts:

xié - slanting / tilting / oblique / diagonal / askew / sloping / inclined

tǎ - tower / spire / tall building / minaret / pagoda / stupa

*Note: a variant of the second character is 塔

碎片/碎

September 27, 2012

Japanese Romaji: saihen

Japanese Meaning: debris / fragment / splinter / broken pieces

Parts:

sai(kuda) - to break / crush / smash / popular / familiar

hen(kata, hira, kera, pen) - piece / chip / flake / whisp / sheet / leaf / one (of a pair) / one-sided / partial / off-centre / remote / incomplete / imperfect / fragmentary / few / little / side / problem / question / matters

Chinese Pinyin: suìpiàn

Chinese Meaning: debris / chip / fragment / splinter / tatter

Parts:

suì - to break down / to break into pieces / smash / broken / busted / shattered / torn / fragmentary / trivial / unimportant / trifling / talkative / garrulous / gabby / cut hair short

piàn(piān) - thin piece / flake / a slice / disc / sheet / splinter / chip / strip / fragment / (medicine) tablet / film / TV play / to slice / to carve thin / partial / incomplete / one-sided / photograph / phonograph record / counter for slices, tablets, tract of land, area of water / counter for CDs, movies, DVDs, etc. / (with 一) counter for scenario, scene, feeling, atmosphere, sound, etc.

延伸

September 28, 2012

Japanese Romaji: enshin

Japanese Meaning: extension

Parts:

en(no) - prolong / stretching

shin(no) - expand / extend / increase / lengthen / stretch

Chinese Pinyin: yánshēn

Chinese Meaning: to extend / to spread

Parts:

yán - to prolong / to extend / stretch / protract / to delay / postpone / defer / engage / invite / send for

shēn - to stretch out / to extend / stick out / spread / report / open up / trust

減少

September 28, 2012

Japanese Romaji: genshou

Japanese Meaning: decrease / reduction / decline / fall / come down / lessen / diminish / recede / wane

Parts:

gen(he, me) - decline / decrease / curtail / dwindle / reduce / reduction / get hungry

shou(suku, suko, oto) - few / little / small

Chinese Pinyin: jiǎnshǎo

Chinese Meaning: to lessen / to decrease / to reduce / to lower

Parts:

jiǎn - to lower / to decrease / to reduce / deduct / to subtract / minus / to cut / to diminish

shǎo(shào) - few / small / little / scanty / be short of / less (in number, quantity, duration) / lack / need / inadequate / missing / absent / lost / lose / a short while / a moment / wanting / cannot do without / stop (doing something) / cut out / don't / seldom / quit / young / junior / young master / son of a rich family

修繕

September 29, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shuuzen

Japanese Meaning: repair / mending / renovate

Parts:

shuu(osa, shu) - study / to master / discipline / conduct oneself well

zen(tsukuro, dzukoro) - adjust / trim / mend / repair / darning / tidy up

Chinese Pinyin: xiūshàn

Chinese Meaning: repair (a building, etc.) / renovate

Parts:

xiū - to decorate / to embellish / adorn / to repair / to mend / to build / construct / to study / to cultivate / to write / compile / edit / long / slender / to prune / to cut / sharpen / trim

shàn - to repair / to mend / to rewrite / to transcribe

*Note: a variant of the first character is 修

友好

September 29, 2012

Japanese Romaji: yuukou

Japanese Meaning: friendship / amity

Parts:

yuu(tomo) - friend / companion / comrade / pal

kou(i, kono, su, zu, yo, yoshimi) - good / to like something / fondness / what one likes / pleasing /
friendship / friendly relations / connection / relation / intimacy

Chinese Pinyin: yǒuhǎo

Chinese Meaning: friendly / friendship / amicable / close friend

Parts:

yǒu - friend / companion / friendly / friendship / fraternity / fraternal love / befriend

hǎo(hào) - good / well / excellent / fine / nice / proper / fit / suitable / good to (do) / easy to / pleasing
(looks, taste, etc.) / healthy / in good shape or condition / feeling well or better / very / quite / fairly / so
/ can / so that / all right! / okay / (exclamatory expression) / friendly meeting / friendly / kind / amicable
/ ready / done / finished / (suffix indicating completion or readiness) / (of an unmarried couple) to be
close / to be keen on each other / to be fond of / to prefer something / to like / to prefer something /
love / to have a tendency to / to be prone to / be liable to / be likely to

争奪/爭

September 30, 2012

Japanese Romaji: soudatsu

Japanese Meaning: struggle / contest

Parts:

sou(araga, araso) - argue / contend / dispute

datu(uba) - dispossess / plunder / to rob / snatch away / take by force / usurp

Chinese Pinyin: zhēngduó

Chinese Meaning: to fight over / to contest / to vie over / contend for / compete for

Parts:

zhēng - to strive for / to vie for / compete for / fight / struggle / contend / to argue / to debate / to dispute / deficient or lacking (topolect) / how or what (literary) / [(Cantonese) owe / be behind with (money, debt) / lack / be short of (resources) / be partial to / side with]

duó - to seize / to take away forcibly / to rob / snatch / to wrest control of / to compete / contend / strive for / decide / determine / settle / to force one's way through / (of words in text) to leave out / to lose / deprive / abolish

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 斂

展覽/覽

September 30, 2012

Japanese Romaji: tenran

Japanese Meaning: exhibition / show

Parts:

ten - expand / unfold / exhibition / exhibit

ran - perusal / see

Chinese Pinyin: zhǎnlǎn

Chinese Meaning: to put on display / to exhibit / exhibition / show

Parts:

zhǎn - to spread out / to open up / unfold / unroll / to exhibit / exhibition / to put into effect / to postpone / to prolong / stretch / extend / expand / dilate / visit

lǎn - to look at / to view / see / inspect / perceive / to read / visit / tour

到達

October 1, 2012

Japanese Romaji: toutatsu

Japanese Meaning: reaching / attaining / arrival

Parts:

tou(ita) - arrival / attain / reach / result in / proceed

tatsu(tachi, dachi, datsu, daru, te) - arrive / attain / reach / accomplished / pluralising suffix (especially for people and animals)

Chinese Pinyin: dàodá

Chinese Meaning: to reach (a certain phase) / to arrive (at a destination)

Parts:

dào - to go to / to arrive / to reach / been to / to (a place) / until (a time) / up to / particle indicating successful completion of an action

dá - to attach / to reach / arrive at / to amount to / to communicate / inform / tell / eminent / prominent / successful / intelligent / smart / understanding / reasonable / open-minded / loose and impudent

*Note: 2 variants of the second character are 達 躋

貨幣

October 1, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kahei

Japanese Meaning: money / currency / coinage

Parts:

ka - goods / property / freight

hei(nusa) - cash / gift / cut paper / rope / bad habit / humble prefix / Shinto offerings of cloth / staff with plaited paper streamers used in Shinto

Chinese Pinyin: huòbì

Chinese Meaning: money / currency / monetary

Parts:

huò - money / currency / property / goods / commodity / products / freight / cargo / bribe / bribery / sell / used as a term of reviling with an abusive suffix

bì - money / coins / currency / banknote / bill / legal tender / silk

*Note: a variant of the second character is 幣

君臣

October 2, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kunshin

Japanese Meaning: ruler and ruled / master and servant / sovereign and subject / lord and vassal

Parts:

kun(kimi, gimi) - you / buddy / pal / old boy / name suffix (for subordinates and young males) / Mr. (junior) / lord / master / boy

shin(omi, jin) - subject (person) / retainer / vassal / attendant / I (used by a servant when speaking to his master) / me

Chinese Pinyin: jūnchén

Chinese Meaning: a ruler and his ministers (old) / monarch and his subjects

Parts:

jūn - monarch / sovereign / lord / ruler / king / chief / prince / gentleman / Mr. / you (used in addressing a male in formal speech)

chén - minister / statesman / vassal / state official or subject in dynastic China / subjugate / conquer / "Your servant" ("I", form of address used when speaking to a ruler) / to submit oneself to the rule of or acknowledging allegiance to / to serve a ruler as his subject

折衷

October 2, 2012

Japanese Romaji: setchuu

Japanese Meaning: compromise / cross / blending / eclecticism / taking the best of two things and combining them into one

Parts:

setsu(o, ori) - fold / pleat / crease / bend / break / fracture / opportunity / chance / occasion / time / submit / yield / small food box

chuu - heart / mind / inmost / inside

Chinese Pinyin: zhézhōng

Chinese Meaning: to compromise / to take the middle road / a trade-off / eclectic

Parts:

zhé(shé, zhē) - to break / break off / to fracture / to snap / to suffer loss / lose / to bend / to fold / to twist / to turn / to change direction / turn back / to turn something over / to turn upside-down / to tip something out (of a container) / roll over / turn over / pour water back and forth (between two containers) / convinced / filled with admiration / to convert into (currency) / amount to / discount / rebate / tenth (in price) / accounts book / lose money (in business) / scene (in a play) / act / counter for theatrical scenes (act)

zhōng - inner feelings / heart / from bottom of one's heart / central / middle / impartial

*Note 1: in Chinese, this word is a variant of 折中

*Note 2: the first character is also the simplified Chinese version of 摺

源泉

October 3, 2012

Japanese Romaji: gensen

Japanese Meaning: source (of energy, of inspiration, etc.) / river source

Parts:

gen(minamoto) - origin / source

sen(izumi) - fountain / spring (small stream)

Chinese Pinyin: yuánquán

Chinese Meaning: fountainhead / wellspring / source / (figurative) origin

Parts:

yuán - root / source / origin / spring (small stream) / head / fountainhead

quán - spring (small stream) / mouth of a spring / fountain / wellspring / coin (archaic) / wealth / money
/ nether regions / world of the dead

*Note: a variant of the first character is 源泉

濃厚

October 3, 2012

Japanese Romaji: noukou

Japanese Meaning: density / richness / enriched / thick / concentration / tension / passion / passionate / possibility / likelihood / probable

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 可能性 (kěnéngxìng, for the meaning of "probability")

Parts:

nou(ko, koma) - concentrated / undiluted / thick / dark

kou(atsu) - heavy / rich / thick / thickness / kind / cordial / brazen / shameless

Chinese Pinyin: nóng hòu

Chinese Meaning: dense / thick (fog, clouds, etc.) / strong (smell, flavour, etc.) / to have a strong interest in / deep / pronounced / fully saturated (color) / denseness / grossness / richness

Parts:

nóng - concentrated / dense / thick / strong (smell, flavour, etc.) / heavy / deep (color, atmosphere, etc.) / vivid / strong (color, atmosphere, etc.) / keen / intense / great (interest in)

hòu - thick / thickness / deep / depth / profound / substantial / large / greatly / kind / generous / magnanimous / virtuous / rich (smell, flavour, etc.) / strong (smell, flavour, etc.) / to favor / to stress

*Note: a variant of the second character is 屋

閉幕

October 4, 2012

Japanese Romaji: heimaku

Japanese Meaning: falling of the curtain / coming to an end

Parts:

hei(shi, ta, to, pei) - closed / shut

maku(baku) - curtain / bunting / act (of a play)

Chinese Pinyin: bì mù

Chinese Meaning: the curtain falls / lower the curtain / to come to an end (of a meeting) / to conclude (performance) / to finish

Parts:

bì - to close / to shut / to obstruct / block up / to stop up / conclude / end (conference) / restrain

mù - curtain / screen / canopy / tent / headquarters of a general / act (of a play) / scene

*Note: a variant of the first character is 閉

各種

October 4, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kakushu

Japanese Meaning: every kind / all sorts / all kinds of / various kinds of / a full range

Parts:

kaku(ono) - each / either / every / all

shu(kusa, gusa, tane, su) - variety / species / kind (type) / class (type) / a sort / category / seed / pip / pit / stone (of fruit) / a gamete, a reproductive cell such as a spermatozoan or egg / lineage / bloodline / quality / tone / material / matter / subject / theme / (news) copy / leaven (bread) / cause / origin / source / the materials or ingredients from which something is made / trick / secret / inside story / capital / funds / seed money

Chinese Pinyin: gèzhǒng

Chinese Meaning: every kind of / all kinds of / various kinds / a variety of / diverse

Parts:

gè - each / every / all / individually / each (other) / separately

zhǒng(zhòng) - species / genus / strain (of plants) / kind / type / sort / race (of humans) / breed / seed / offspring / descendants / posterity / has guts (i.e. courage) / grit / nerve / to plant / to grow / to sow / to cultivate / vaccinate / receive vaccination / counter for types (kind, sort, class) / counter for languages

衰弱

October 5, 2012

Japanese Romaji: suijaku

Japanese Meaning: weakness / debility / breakdown / collapse / prostration / emaciation

Parts:

sui(otōro) - wane / weaken / decline

jaku(yowa) - weakness / the weak / frail / weak / little less than / fewer than / under

Chinese Pinyin: shuāiruò

Chinese Meaning: weak / feeble

Parts:

shuāi(cuī) - to decline / to wane / decrease / weaken / weakening / wither / to become weak or feeble / falter / fail / fade / to go downhill / (Cantonese) irritating, annoying, disgusting, unpleasant, nasty-looking, ugly, bad, fail, make a mistake, lose face, to be caught doing something wrong / mourning garments

ruò - weak / feeble / fragile / infirm / delicate / tender / young / inferior / (following a decimal or fraction) slightly less than

煮沸

October 5, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shafutsu

Japanese Meaning: boiling up

Parts:

sha(ni) - boil / cook

futsu(wa) - boil / seethe / uproar / breed / ferment

Chinese Pinyin: zhǔfèi

Chinese Meaning: to boil

Parts:

zhǔ - to cook / to boil / to stew / decoct

fèi - to boil / boiling / bubble up / gush

*Note: a variant of the first character is 煮

萎縮

October 6, 2012

Japanese Romaji: ishuku

Japanese Meaning: withering / atrophy / contraction / dwarf

Parts:

i(shio, shina, shibo, na) - droop / wither / lame

shuku(chidji, chiri) - to contract / shrink / shrivel / reduce / wrinkle / wearing armor / counter for suits of armor

Chinese Pinyin: wěisuō

Chinese Meaning: to wither / to dry up (of a plant) / to wane / to shrink / to atrophy (of muscle, social custom, etc.) / (economy) recede / recession / to contract / shrink

Parts:

wěi(wēi) - wither / withered / wilt / weaken / fade / shrink / decline / fall / spiritless

suō - to withdraw / to pull back / recoil / to draw in / retire / to contract / to shrink / to reduce / shorten / abbreviation / economize / curtail / cut down (expense)

疾病

October 6, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shippei

Japanese Meaning: illness / disease

Parts:

shitsu(to, haya) - rapidly

pei(yamai, ya, byou) - ill / sick / illness / disease / suffer / difficult / make one suffer / bad habit

Chinese Pinyin: jíbìng

Chinese Meaning: disease / illness / sickness / ailment

Parts:

jí - sickness / disease / illness / ailment / ache / pain / agony / to hate / detest / abhor / loathe / envy /
swift / agile / quick / vigorous / violent

bìng - illness / disease / sickness / ailment / to fall ill / blemish / fault / defect / injure / harm / worry /
hate / insult

痴情/癡

October 7, 2012

Japanese Romaji: chijou

Japanese Meaning: infatuation / blind love / being struck mad by love / foolish passion / jealousy

Parts:

chi(shi) - foolish / stupid / stupidity / fool / foolishness / absurd / indecent / indelicate / (Buddhism)

moha (ignorance, folly)

jou(nasa, zei) - emotion / feelings / sentiment / sympathy / compassion / pity / passion / affection / love / facts / circumstances / the way things really are / the actual situation

Chinese Pinyin: chīqíng

Chinese Meaning: infatuation / blind love / blind passion

Parts:

chī - stupid / foolish / silly / dumb / idiotic / imbecile / crazy about / infatuated with / besotted by / person who is infatuated with somebody or something / sentimental

qíng - feeling / emotion / sentiment / passion / affection / love / situation / fact / detail / condition / nature / reason

*Note: in Chinese, the simpler version of the first character can be considered the simplified version of the more complex version or as a separate character altogether. Both mean the same thing either way.

溪谷/溪谿

October 7, 2012

Japanese Romaji: keikoku

Japanese Meaning: valley / ravine / canyon

Parts:

kei(tani) - mountain stream / valley

koku(tani, ya) - valley

Chinese Pinyin1: xīgǔ

Chinese Meaning: valley / gorge

Parts:

xī(qī) - mountain stream / creek / brook / rivulet

gǔ - valley / gorge / ravine / dilemma / difficult situation / predicament

Chinese Pinyin2: xīgǔ

Chinese Meaning: valley / gorge

Parts:

xī(qī) - mountain stream / creek / brook / rivulet / valley / gorge

gǔ - valley / gorge / ravine / dilemma / difficult situation / predicament

*Note: the two Chinese versions of the first character are technically two distinct characters (albeit with similar meanings). The first character has 2 other variants: 溪谿 The second character is also the simplified Chinese version of 穀 (gǔ).

偶像

October 8, 2012

Japanese Romaji: guuzou

Japanese Meaning: idol / icon / image / statue

Parts:

guu(tama) - accidentally / occasional / rare / rarity / same kind / man and wife / couple / even number

zou - figure / statue / idol / image / picture / portrait

Chinese Pinyin: ǒuxiàng

Chinese Meaning: idol / icon / image

Parts:

ǒu - accidentally / coincidentally / image / an idol / once in a while / not to be taken for granted / even number / counterpart / pair / mate / one's companion / fellows / buddies

xiàng - to resemble / to be like / take after / to appear / seem / look like / to look as if / such as / appearance / image / portrait / picture / a figure / statue / image under a mapping (math)

*Note: a variant of the first character is 禺

除外

October 8, 2012

Japanese Romaji: jogai

Japanese Meaning: exception / exclusion

Parts:

jo(nozo, yo, ji) - abolish / cancel / to except / exclude / remove / division (math)

gai(soto, to, hazu, hoka, ge) - outside / exterior / open air / other place / foreign / other (places, things, etc.) / except / the rest / outside of / not covered by

Chinese Pinyin: chúwài

Chinese Meaning: to exclude / not including something (when counting or listing) / except for

Parts:

chú - to get rid of / to remove / to exclude / to eliminate / to wipe out / to divide / division (math) / divisible / be appointed to an official rank or office / subtract / deduct / aside from / besides / except / unless / not including / change / turn (as a new year)

wài - outside / out / external / foreign / alien / diplomatic / diplomacy / in addition / besides / alienate / a role in Chinese opera for old men / a term referring to one's husband / on wife's or mother's side / relatives of one's sisters or daughters

盲従/従

October 9, 2012

Japanese Romaji: moujuu

Japanese Meaning: blind obedience

Parts:

mou(mekura, bou) - blind / blindness / blind person / illiteracy / illiterate person / ignorance / ignorant person / ignoramus

juu(shitaga, shou, ju) - accompany / follow / comply / obey / submit to / incidental / secondary / subordinate / junior

*Note: the Japanese word for “cousin” (いとこ itoko) can be written with two or three kanji. The first is 従 while the other one or two can be any of the common characters referring to siblings.

Chinese Pinyin: mángcóng

Chinese Meaning: to follow blindly / to conform slavishly / unthinking obedience

Parts:

máng - blind / unperceptive / shortsighted / deluded

cóng(cōng, zòng) - from / via / by / since / when / whence / passing through / through (a gap) / past / ever (followed by negative, meaning never) / to follow / to comply with / to obey / to join / to engage in / undertake / manage / dedicate oneself to / attend to / adopting some mode of action or attitude / follower / retainer / entourage / attendant / servant / accessory / accomplice / plentiful / abundant / secondary / vice / deputy / urge / persuade strongly / related by common paternal grandfather or early ancestor / lax / easy / yielding / unhurried / second cousin / relation other than one's direct blood relatives / from north to south

刺客

October 9, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shikaku / shikyaku

Japanese Meaning: assassin / to assassinate

Parts:

shi(sa, za, sashi, toge) - pierce / prick / stab / sting / thorn / splinter / spine / biting words / calling card

kaku(kyaku) - guest / visitor / client / customer / shopper / spectator / audience / tourist / sightseer / passenger

Chinese Pinyin: cìkè

Chinese Meaning: assassin / murderer

Parts:

cì(cǐ) - thorn / sting / splinter / spine / thrust / to prod / to prick / to pierce / to stab / irritate / stimulate / to assassinate / to murder / spy on / to scout / detect / ridicule / to mock / whoosh (onomatopoeia)

kè - guest / visitor / customer / traveller

柔軟

October 10, 2012

Japanese Romaji: juunan

Japanese Meaning: soft / flexible / lithe / pliable / supple / elastic

Parts:

juu(yawa, yawara, nyuu) - gentleness / softness / tender / weakness / weak / poorly-built / insubstantial
/ a small handheld metal weapon

nan(yawa) - soft

Chinese Pinyin: róuruǎn

Chinese Meaning: soft to the touch / tender / delicate / lithe / flexible / supple / easily bent

Parts:

róu - soft / tender / amiable / gentle / pliant / flexible / supple / yielding / submissive / new grass
budding in spring / rho (Greek letter Pp)

ruǎn - soft / flexible / pliable / tender / plastic / supple / weak / feeble / effeminate / cowardly / gentle /
mild / poor in quality, ability, etc. / easily moved or influenced

*Note 1: while the general meaning of this word can mean either “soft” (e.g. fur, wool, personality, etc.)
or “flexible” (e.g. body, elastic, opinions, movement, etc.), most of the Japanese sentences I found use
this word to mean “flexible” while the Chinese usage tend to mean “soft”.

*Note 2: 2 variants of the second character are 軟 and 𦉳

累積

October 10, 2012

Japanese Romaji: ruiseki

Japanese Meaning: accumulation

Parts:

ru - accumulate / continually / involvement / tie up / trouble / evil influence / implication / involvement
seki(tsu, dzu) - amass / contents / volume (space) / area / acreage / load / pile up / stack / product
(math)

Chinese Pinyin: lěijī

Chinese Meaning: to accumulate / accumulation / cumulation / stores

Parts:

lěi(lèi) - to accumulate / pile up / to involve / involvement / to implicate / spread (harm) / to bother / to owe / be in debt / continuous / repeated / repeatedly / successively / tired / weary / fatigue / fatigued / to strain / to wear out / to work hard / family burden / nuisance / fasten / bind
jī - to amass / to accumulate / to store up / measured quantity (area, volume, etc.) / product (math) / integrate (math) / to solve an ordinary differential equation (math) / old / long-standing / long (time) / deep-rooted / (cards) Jack

*Note 1: the first character is also the simplified Chinese version of 纍 (léi)

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 紮

階乗/乗

October 11, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kaijou

Japanese Meaning: factorial (math)

Parts:

kai(kizahashi, gai) - stair / storey / story / floor / counter for storeys of a building

jou(no, nori) - to board / to mount / to ride / join / record / multiplication / power (math) / counter for vehicles

Chinese Pinyin: jiēchéng

Chinese Meaning: factorial (math)

Parts:

jiē - rank / degree / class / stairs / steps

chéng(shèng) - to ride / to mount / to board / ascend / travel by / to make use of / to avail oneself of / to take advantage of / to multiply (math) / generic term for history books / historical records / annals / counter for vehicles / war chariot drawn by four horses / Buddhist sect or creed

*Note: a variant of the first character is 階 Another variant of the second character is 乘

忠誠

October 11, 2012

Japanese Romaji: chuusei

Japanese Meaning: loyalty / sincerity / allegiance / fidelity / integrity

Parts:

chuu - faithfulness / fidelity / loyalty / devotion

sei(makoto) - fidelity / sincerity / honesty / integrity / truth / reality / admonish / prohibit / warn

Chinese Pinyin: zhōngchéng

Chinese Meaning: devoted / fidelity / loyal / loyalty / faithful

Parts:

zhōng - loyal / devoted / honest / fidelity / faithful / patriotic / sincerity / constant

chéng - honest / sincere / cordial / true / real / truly / indeed / actually

推薦

October 12, 2012

Japanese Romaji: suisen

Japanese Meaning: recommendation / referral / endorsement

Parts:

sui(o) - conjecture / guess / infer / support / suppose

sen(susu, komo) - advise / recommend / offer / encourage / straw mat / beggar

Chinese Pinyin: tuījiàn

Chinese Meaning: to recommend / recommendation

Parts:

tuī - to push / to shove / to push forward / to cut / to expel / to refuse / to reject / to decline / to shirk (responsibility) / to put off / to delay / look into / find out / ponder / infer / deduce / to nominate / to elect / to recommend / to praise / esteem / move along / change in succession (e.g. seasons) / to extend / to enlarge

jiàn - to recommend / to present / to offer / introduce / propose / grass / straw mat

催促

October 12, 2012

Japanese Romaji: saisoku

Japanese Meaning: to urge / press for / request / demand / claim / to remind

Parts:

sai(moyoo) - give (a dinner) / hold (a meeting) / sponsor

soku(unaga) - demand / incite / to press for / urge / stimulate

Chinese Pinyin: cuīcù

Chinese Meaning: to urge / to press for / to push for / to hurry up / to hasten

Parts:

cuī - to urge / to press for / to prompt / to rush somebody / to push somebody to do something / to hasten something / hurry / to expedite / accelerate / speed up

cù - urgent / short (of time) / hurried / to urge / to press for / to promote / facilitate / to urge haste / close / intimate / close to / come near / approach

献策/獻

October 13, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kensaku

Japanese Meaning: suggestion / advice / proposal

Parts:

ken(kon) - offer / offering / present / counter for drinks

saku - plan / scheme / policy / means / step

Chinese Pinyin: xiàncè

Chinese Meaning: to make a suggestion / to offer advice

Parts:

xiàn - to offer / to present / to dedicate / to donate / to show / to put on display / perform / put on / worthy person (old)

cè - policy / plan / scheme / strategy / to whip (a horse) / to encourage / urge / impel / spur on / bamboo slip for writing (old) / riding crop with sharp spines (old) / essay written for the imperial examinations (old) / upward horizontal stroke in calligraphy / (literary) crutches

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: another variant of the second character is 筴

把握

October 13, 2012

Japanese Romaji: ha'aku

Japanese Meaning: catch / grasp / understanding

Parts:

ha(tsuka, taba, ba, pa, wa) - bunch / bundle / sheaf / faggot (bundle) / grasp / counter for bundles

aku(nigi) - bribe / to grip / to hold / mould sushi

Chinese Pinyin: bǎwò

Chinese Meaning: to seize / to hold / to grasp (figurative) / assurance / certainty / sure (of the outcome)

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 分かる (wakaru) or 確実 (kakujitsu) for the meaning of "certainty"

Parts:

bǎ(bà) - to hold / to contain / to grasp / to seize / manipulate / to take hold of / have control over / to handle / a handle / grip / regard as / bundle / bunch / guard / to watch / keep under surveillance / chain / lock / hold in place / odd, or so / more or less / sworn brotherhood / particle marking the following noun as a direct object / counter for small objects (handful) or things in a bunch or with a handle (flowers, keys, umbrellas, scissors, etc.) / counter for something abstract (age, effort, efficiency, etc.)

wò - to hold / to grasp / to possess / hold fast / take by hand / to clench (one's fist) / to master / counter for handfuls

*Note: this word is mostly used in a figurative sense (e.g. seize an opportunity, grasp the situation, have control (a hold) over something, etc.)

隔離

October 14, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kakuri

Japanese Meaning: isolation / segregation / separation / quarantine

Parts:

kaku(heda) - distance / isolate / separate / gulf / alternate / every other / second

ri(hana, bana) - detach / disjoin / separation / digress / li (one of the trigrams of the I Ching: fire, south, ☲)

*Note: in Japanese, 流離う (to wander) is read as “sasurau”

Chinese Pinyin: gélí

Chinese Meaning: to separate / to isolate / isolation / quarantine / segregate

Parts:

gé - to separate / to partition / to divide / cut off / isolate / to stand or lie between / at a distance from / after or at an interval of / be apart from (in time or space) / be away from

lí - to leave / to part from / to depart from / go away / separate / separation / be separate from / to be away from / distant / from (a distance) / be at a distance from / apart from / be without (something) / be independent of / defy / go against / run into / meet with / act in pair / bright (light) / li (one of the trigrams of the I Ching: fire, south, ☲)

互惠/惠

October 14, 2012

Japanese Romaji: gokei

Japanese Meaning: reciprocity / mutual benefit

Parts:

go(tagu) - mutually / reciprocally / together

kei(megu, e) - blessing / favor / favour / grace / kindness

Chinese Pinyin: hùhuì

Chinese Meaning: reciprocity / mutual benefit

Parts:

hù - mutually / reciprocally / each other

huì - favor / favour / give favor / benefit / blessing / kindness / confer kindness / favourably / gracious / gentle / fair / kind / benevolent / to give somebody property or advantage / honorific

*Note: it is a common misconception that the plover helps pick out food from crocodiles' teeth to feed themselves and to clean the teeth.

摩擦

October 15, 2012

Japanese Romaji: masatsu

Japanese Meaning: friction / rubbing / rubdown / chafe

Parts:

ma(sasu, su) - grind / polish / chafe / rub / scrape

satsu(kasu, kosu, sas, su, zu) - chafe / grate / rub / scrape / scratch / scour

Chinese Pinyin: mócā

Chinese Meaning: friction / rubbing / chafing / (figurative) disharmony / conflict

Parts:

mó - to rub / grind / friction / scour / chafe / feel with the hand / work and encourage each other (especially in study)

cā - to wipe / to scrub / to clean / to polish / rub / scour / to scrape / to graze / to brush by / touch lightly / to shave / to erase / rubbing (brush stroke in painting) / spread on / to apply / to paint

*Note 1: a variant of the first character is 摩

*Note 2: in Chinese, this word is also written as 磨擦

批准

October 15, 2012

Japanese Romaji: hijun

Japanese Meaning: ratification / ratify

Parts:

hi - criticism / strike

jun(nazura, nazora) - associate / quasi- / semi-

Chinese Pinyin: pīzhǔn

Chinese Meaning: to ratify / to approve

Parts:

pī - to ascertain / to act on / to criticize / comment / to approve /to pass on / wholesale / batch / lot /
slap / tier (for the ranking of universities and colleges) / counter for batches, lots, military flights

zhǔn - to allow / to grant / approve / permit / authorize / in accordance with / in the light of

*Note: the second character is also the simplified Chinese version of 準 (zhǔn)

寄託

October 16, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kitaku

Japanese Meaning: deposit / entrusting

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 存款 (cúnkǔǎn) for the meaning of “deposit”

Parts:

ki(yo) - bring near / draw near / forward / send / collect / gather / stop in

taku(kako, kakotsu) - consign /entrusting with / requesting / pretend / hint

Chinese Pinyin: jìtuō

Chinese Meaning: to have somebody look after somebody / to entrust the care of somebody / to place (hope, etc.) on / to repose in

Parts:

jì - to live (in a house) / to lodge / to mail / to send / transmit / to post / remit / to entrust / to depend on / rely on / attach oneself to / deposit / to place / leave with / adopted

tuō - to trust / to entrust / to be entrusted with / rely on / owe to / due to / ask / request / to act as trustee / commission / give as a pretext / plead

*Note: the second character has two versions in simplified Chinese. One of them is also a separate traditional Chinese character (托).

陳述

October 16, 2012

Japanese Romaji: chinjutsu

Japanese Meaning: statement / declaration

Parts:

chin(no) - explain / to state / relate / exhibit

jutsu(no) - mention / speak / to state / relate

Chinese Pinyin: chénshù

Chinese Meaning: an assertion / to declare / to state

Parts:

chén - to lay out / to exhibit / to display / to arrange / spread out / to narrate / to state / to explain / to tell / plead / old / stale / preserved for a long time / make public / tactical deployment of troops

shù - to state / to tell / to narrate / give an account of / recount / expound / to express / to relate

懊惱/惱

October 17, 2012

Japanese Romaji: ounou

Japanese Meaning: anguish / trouble / agony / distress / suffering / worry / woe

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 煩惱 (fánnǎo)

Parts:

ou - in distress / irritating / provoking / vexed / impatient

nou(naya) - distress / trouble / worry / illness / in pain

Chinese Pinyin: àonǎo

Chinese Meaning: annoyed / vexed / upset / remorseful and angry / (much to one's) chagrin

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 悔しさ (kuyashisa)

Parts:

ào - to regret / remorseful / vexed / annoyed / worried / nervous

nǎo - to get angry / angered / filled with hate / annoyed / irritated / unhappy / upset / depressed

*Note: the distinction between the Chinese and Japanese meaning isn't simple, so the translations are approximations.

興趣

October 17, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kyoushu

Japanese Meaning: interest (in something)

Parts:

kyou(oko, kou) - interest (in) / pleasure / entertain / entertainment / retrieve / revive / implicit comparison (style of the Shi Jing)

shu(omomu, omomuki) - become / proceed to / tend / effect / influence / meaning / tenor / gist / appearance / aspect / taste / grace / charm / refinement

Chinese Pinyin: xìngqù

Chinese Meaning: interest (in something) / hobby

Parts:

xìng(xīng) - feeling or desire to do something / interest in something / excitement / enthusiasm / eagerness / willingness / to launch / to promote / to rise / to flourish / thrive / prosper / to become popular / fashionable / to start / to encourage / to get up / arise / cheerful / happy / gay / merry / hot / warm / (often used in the negative) to permit or allow / maybe

qù - interesting / to interest / delight / fun / what attracts one's attention / amusing / funny / inclination / taste / liking

*Note: a variant of the first character is 嫺

鋼管

October 18, 2012

Japanese Romaji: koukan

Japanese Meaning: steel pipe

Parts:

kou(hagane) - steel

kan(kuda) - pipe / tube / wind instrument / drunken talk

Chinese Pinyin: gāngguǎn

Chinese Meaning: steel pipe, tube, or pole

Parts:

gāng - steel / hard / strong / tough

guǎn - tube / pipe / duct / woodwind music / wind musical instrument / administer / govern / to take care (of) / to control / to manage / to be in charge of / to look after / to run (something) / to care about / (spoken) to / (colloquial) to / towards / bother about / interfere with / meddle / provide / furnish / guarantee / counter for tube-shaped objects / particle similar to 把 in 管...叫 constructions / writing brush

*Note: a variant of the second character is 筧

萌芽

October 18, 2012

Japanese Romaji: houga

Japanese Meaning: sprout / bud / sign / germination / germ

Parts:

hou(kiza, mo, moe) - bud / sprout / malt / show symptoms of / have a strong affection for (slang)

ga(me) - bud / sprout / germ / spear

Chinese Pinyin: méngyá

Chinese Meaning: sprout / germ of a plant / germinate

Parts:

méng - people / sprout / bud / germinate / shoot forth / harbour (thought) / beginning / initiation / initial / have a strong affection for (slang from Japan)

yá - bud / sprout / shoot (of a plant)

*Note: a variant of the first character is 萌

廃棄/廢

October 19, 2012

Japanese Romaji: haiki

Japanese Meaning: disposal / abandonment / scrapping / discarding / repeal / annulment

Parts:

hai(suta, pai) - abandon / discarding / abolish / cessation / obsolete

ki(su) - abandon / discard / reject / resign / sacrifice / throw away

*Note 1: 自棄 has the reading of “yake”

Chinese Pinyin: fèiqì

Chinese Meaning: to discard / to abandon (old ways) / to invalidate / throw away

Parts:

fèi - to abolish / to abandon / to abrogate / to discard / terminate / to depose / give up / to oust / to cripple / crippled / useless / invalid / disabled / abandoned / waste / deserted / dispirited

qì - to abandon / to relinquish / to discard / to reject / to throw away / forsake / shun / give up / leave behind / cast aside

*Note 2: another variant of the first character is 廢

擬態

October 19, 2012

Japanese Romaji: gitai

Japanese Meaning: (biological) mimicry / mimesis / camouflage

Parts:

gi(nazura, nazora, modo) - imitate / mimic / pseudo- / quasi- / nominate / aim (a gun) at

tai(waza, tei, dai, zama, nari) - appearance / attitude / air / condition / state / form / figure / style / way / shape / manner / voice (of verbs) / diathesis / sorry state / plight / sad sight / a mess

Chinese Pinyin: nǐtài

Chinese Meaning: (biological) mimicry / camouflage

Parts:

nǐ - to imitate / copy / model after / pseudo- / to plan to / intend / decide / to draft (a plan) / propose / draw up / design / suppose / assume / imagine / to assess / to compare / to match / be analogous to

tài - attitude / manner / bearing / carriage / position / appearance / form / shape / state / deportment / situation / condition / circumstances / posture / state of matter (physics) / (grammar) voice

*Note: a variant of the first character is 儗

営巢/營巢

October 20, 2012

Japanese Romaji: eisou

Japanese Meaning: building a nest / nesting / nidification

Parts:

ei(tona) - conduct (business) / occupation / build / perform / camp

sou(su) - den / hive / nest / rookery / breeding place / a haunt / cobweb

Chinese Pinyin: yíngcháo

Chinese Meaning: to nest

Parts:

yíng - camp / barracks / encampment / enclosing walls / battalion / to build / to operate / to manage /
to run (something) / to strive for / to seek / attempt

cháo - nest / living quarter in a tree / den / hole (of ants, bees, etc.) / hive / web / hideout / lair (for
bandits, etc.)

*Note: the Japanese term refers to the construction of a nest whereas the Chinese term refers to the act
of nesting itself.

抵抗

October 20, 2012

Japanese Romaji: teikou

Japanese Meaning: resistance / opposition / reluctance / repulsion / repugnance / (physics) friction / drag / electrical resistance

Parts:

tei - resist / reach / touch

kou(araga) - confront / defy / oppose / resist / anti-

Chinese Pinyin: dǐkàng

Chinese Meaning: to resist / resistance / to fight back / to stick up to

Parts:

dǐ - to press against / to support / to prop up / to hold / sustain / to resist / oppose / withstand / contradict / deny / offset / substitute / to equal / to balance / to make up for / compensate for / to mortgage / to arrive / reach

kàng - to resist / to fight / to combat / oppose / to defy / refuse / reject / anti-

維持

October 21, 2012

Japanese Romaji: iji

Japanese Meaning: maintenance / preservation / improvement / to keep

Parts:

i - fiber / rope / tie

ji(mo, chi) - have / hold

Chinese Pinyin: wéichí

Chinese Meaning: to maintain / to preserve / to keep

Parts:

wéi - to preserve / to maintain / safeguard / to hold together / to unite / hold fast / to tie / to secure / long and slender (fibers) / pattern / rule / dimension / vitamin / an initial particle (only, but, etc.)

chí - to hold / to grasp / carry / to bear / to support / patron / sustain / to maintain / uphold / to harbour / to persevere / to manage / to run (i.e. administer) / to control / dominate / oppose / be in a stalemate

固執

October 21, 2012

Japanese Romaji: koshitsu / koshuu

Japanese Meaning: adherence (e.g. to ideas, beliefs, a pet theory) (negative nuance) / persistence / insistence / stubbornness

Parts:

ko(kata, go) - clot / curdle / harden / to set

shitsu(to, shuu) - grasp / take hold / take to heart / tenacious

Chinese Pinyin: gùzhí

Chinese Meaning: obstinate / stubborn / persistent / fixed / pigheaded / refusing to give up / to cling tenaciously to one's opinion

Parts:

gù - hard / strong / solid / solidify / to become solid / consolidate / strength / strengthen / firm / secure / steadfast / stubborn / obstinate / adamant / sure / assuredly / undoubtedly / of course / indeed / admittedly / originally / as a matter of course

zhí - to execute (a plan) / carry out / to conduct / take charge of / to grasp / hold in hand / to carry / to catch / capture / detain / keep / stick to (views, etc.) / persist in / insist on / written acknowledgment / intimate friend / bosom friend / soul mate

埋藏/藏

October 22, 2012

Japanese Romaji: maizou

Japanese Meaning: buried property / treasure trove

Parts:

mai(i, uzu, u) - bury / embedded / be filled up

zou(kura, gura) - to own / possess / to hide / have / possession / ownership / storehouse / warehouse / cellar / magazine / granary / godown / depository / treasury / elevator

Chinese Pinyin: máicáng

Chinese Meaning: to bury / to hide by burying / embed / hidden / cover up

Parts:

mái(mán) - to bury / secrete / conceal / cover up / to hide / to blame / (Cantonese) move closer to, close up, join company, together, even, too, also, as well, finish off, settle an account, indiscriminately

cáng(zàng) - to conceal / to hide away / keep out of sight / to harbour / to harbor / hoard / to store / store up / to save / to deposit / put in storage / to collect / storehouse / storing place / depository / reserves / deposits / collection / Buddhist or Taoist scripture / Tibet / Tibetan

*Note: a variant of the first character is 藪 Another variant of the second character is 匪

共謀

October 22, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kyoubou

Japanese Meaning: conspiracy / complicity

Parts:

kyou(tomo, domo) - all / and / both / alike / same / together / together with / with / neither / none / including / first-person plural (or singular) (humble) / second or third person plural (implies speaker is of higher status than those referred to)

bou(tabaka, hakarigoto, haka, mu) - cheat / conspire / scheme / plan / strategy / deceive / devise / have in mind / impose on

Chinese Pinyin: gòngmóu

Chinese Meaning: to scheme together / to conspire / joint plan / conspiracy / collusion / to be in league (with somebody)

Parts:

gòng - common / same / general / to share / together / together with / all / total / total collectively / altogether / work together

móu - to scheme / to plan / to plot / stratagem / to seek / pursue / try to obtain / consult / discuss / negotiate

驚愕

October 23, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kyougaku

Japanese Meaning: surprise / fright / shock / astonishment

Parts:

kyou(odoro) - be surprised / amazed / frightened / wonder

gaku(odoro) - frightened / surprised

*Note: in Japanese, 吃驚 (to be surprised) has a common reading of “bikkuri”.

Chinese Pinyin: jīng'è

Chinese Meaning: to stun / to shock and amaze / stupefied / astonishment

Parts:

jīng - to be frightened / to frighten / to be scared / to alarm / to surprise / to start / startled / startle / scary / surprised

è - startled / alarmed / astonished / amazed / astounded

証拠/證據

October 23, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shouko

Japanese Meaning: evidence / proof

Parts:

shou(akashi, sho) - evidence / proof / certificate / testimony / to testify

ko(yo, kyo) - based on / follow / therefore / foothold

Chinese Pinyin: zhèngjù

Chinese Meaning: evidence / proof / testimony

Parts:

zhèng - proof / evidence / to prove / testify / verify / to confirm / bear testimony / bear witness / corroborate / attest / certify / certificate / to demonstrate / symptom / indication / to admonish

jù - according to / to act in accordance with / on the grounds of / to depend on / rely on / to seize / to occupy / to hold / take possession of / a base / position / evidence / proof / certificate

*Note: another variant of the second character is 据 This character can also be considered the Chinese simplified form of the second character.

汽船

October 24, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kisen

Japanese Meaning: steamship / steamboat / liner

Parts:

ki - steam / vapor / vapour

sen(funa, fune, bune) - boat / ship / vessel / watercraft / steamship / tank / tub / vat / trough / counter
for boat-shaped containers

Chinese Pinyin: qìchuán

Chinese Meaning: steamboat / steamship

Parts:

qì - steam / vapor / vapour / gas

chuán - boat / ship / vessel / craft

*Note: a variant of the second character is 舩

主導

October 24, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shudou

Japanese Meaning: main leadership

Parts:

shu(aruji, omo, nushi, shuu, su, zu) - main thing / principal / foremost / chief / important / (one's) master / mistress / lord / Lord (Christian reference to Jesus or God) / the majority / the primary concern / head (of a household, etc.) / leader / owner / proprietor / proprietress / landlord / landlady / subject (of a rumor, etc.) / doer (of a deed) / guardian spirit / long-time resident (or employee, etc.) / husband / you (informal) / (archaism) honorific (or familiar) suffix used after a name / (abbreviation) main secondary or supporting role (in kyogen) / (archaism) entertaining someone as one's guest
dou(shirube, michibi) - leading / guidance / guide / conduct / to usher

Chinese Pinyin: zhǔdǎo

Chinese Meaning: to lead / to manage / leading / predominant / dominant / guiding (attributive) / the leading role / leading factor

Parts:

zhǔ - owner / master / host / chief / leader / lord / god / emperor / individual or party concerned / officiate at / preside over / take charge of / to be in charge of / to direct / to head / control / determine / main / main aim / goal / primary / principal / to indicate / to signify / trump card (in card games) / God / the Lord / Jesus Christ
dǎo - to lead / to guide / to direct / instruct / teach / to tutor / to conduct / to transmit

紀元

October 25, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kigen

Japanese Meaning: era / epoch / AD (Christian era)

Parts:

ki - geologic period / history / account / annals / chronicle / narrative

gen(moto, gan) - origin / beginning / source / root / base / basis / foundation / cause / ingredient / material / (somebody's) side / (somebody's) location / original cost (capital, principal, etc.) / (plant) root / (tree) trunk / handle (chopsticks, brush, etc.) / a grip / first section of a waka / former time / (math) an unknown / (math) element (of a set) / yuan (Chinese monetary unit) / former / ex-

Chinese Pinyin: jìyuán

Chinese Meaning: beginning of an era / epoch / era / AD (Christian era)

Parts:

jì(jǐ) - an age / era / period / epoch / order / historical record / annals / historical account / century / discipline / law / standard

yuán - first / origin / beginning / original / Chinese monetary unit (yuan) / dollar / primary / basic / fundamental / head / eldest / chief / big / 60 years (Chinese astrology)

嚴肅/嚴肅

October 25, 2012

Japanese Romaji: genshuku

Japanese Meaning: gravity / solemnity / severity / seriousness / dignity / rigor / rigour / austerity

Parts:

gen(ika, ikame, ogoso, kibi, gon) - severity / stern / strictness / strict / rigidity

shuku - quietly / softly / solemn

Chinese Pinyin: yánsù

Chinese Meaning: solemn / grave / serious / earnest / severe / strict / stern

Parts:

yán - stern / strict / rigorous / severe / rigid / intense / (be) grave / inclement / tight (closely sealed) / close / sealed / (literary) father

sù - respectful / solemn / serious / sedate / pay respects / reverently / deferential / to eliminate / to clean up / mop up / get rid of / rectify / tighten / tidy up

*Note: another variant of the first character is 崑

区域/區

October 26, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kuiki

Japanese Meaning: area / district / limits / boundary / domain / zone / sphere / territory / area (e.g. in programming languages)

Parts:

ku(machi) - district / ward / section

iki - level / limits / range / region / stage

Chinese Pinyin: qūyù

Chinese Meaning: area / region / district / zone

Parts:

qū(ōu) - area / region / district / zone / ward / distinguish / discriminate / small / few / little

yù - field / region / district / boundary / frontier / land / area / country / domain (taxonomy) / to live / to stay

*Note: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

巧妙

October 26, 2012

Japanese Romaji: koumyou

Japanese Meaning: ingenious / clever / skillful / deft

Parts:

kou(uma, taku, daku, gou) - skilled / ingenuity / adroit

myou(tae) - charming / delicate / excellent / exquisite / miracle / mystery / queer / strange / unusual /
(something) superb / (something) excellent

Chinese Pinyin: qiǎomiào

Chinese Meaning: ingenious / clever / ingenuity / artifice

Parts:

qiǎo - skillful / ingenious / clever / timely / opportunely / coincidentally / as it happens

miào - clever / wonderful / exquisite / excellent / fantastic / mysterious / subtle / intriguing / ingenious

*Note: a variant of the second character is 妙

妊婦

October 27, 2012

Japanese Romaji: ninpu

Japanese Meaning: pregnant woman

Parts:

nin - pregnancy

pu(fu) - lady / woman / married woman / wife / bride

Chinese Pinyin: rènfù

Chinese Meaning: expecting mother

Parts:

rèn - pregnant / pregnancy / conceive / be expecting

fù - woman / married woman / wife / female / matron

*Note: a variant of the first character is 妊 A variant of the second character is 嬪

犠牲/犠

October 27, 2012

Japanese Romaji: gisei

Japanese Meaning: victim / sacrifice / scapegoat

Parts:

gi - sacrifice

sei - animal sacrifice / offering

Chinese Pinyin: xīshēng

Chinese Meaning: to sacrifice oneself / to lay down one's life / to do something at the expense of / beast slaughtered for sacrifice / sacrifice / oblation / give up / die a martyr's death / victim / scapegoat

Parts:

xī - sacrifice / sacrificial / give up

shēng - domestic animal / livestock / sacrificial animal / animal

媒介

October 28, 2012

Japanese Romaji: baikai

Japanese Meaning: intermediary / carrier of disease / mediate

Parts:

bai - mediator / a go-between

kai - concern oneself with / jammed in / to be between / mediate / shellfish / shell

Chinese Pinyin: méijiè

Chinese Meaning: intermediary / (a) medium / vehicle (causal) / (a) go-between / media

Parts:

méi - medium / intermediary / vehicle (causal) / matchmaker / go-between / (abbreviation) media / news media

jiè - to lie between / between / interpose / to introduce / upright (personality) / straightforward / conscientious / great and honorable / huge / big / aid / benefit / tiny / forerunner / herald / harbinger / sea shell / shelled aquatic animal / to wear armor / armor / mail (armor) / stage direction for certain movements / pray for blessing / keep in mind / take seriously / simple / plain / alone

*Note: this word is mostly used to refer to something which provides a means for something else to occur. For example, animals can be a medium for disease to spread, and newspapers can be a medium for advertisements. It can also refer to a mediator between two parties. The Chinese definition includes the meanings of “artistic media” and “mass media”.

門戸/戸

October 28, 2012

Japanese Romaji: monko

Japanese Meaning: door

Parts:

mon(kado, to) - gate / branch of learning based on the teachings of a single master / counter for cannons / counter for biological divisions

ko(to, do, be) - door (especially Japanese-style) / counter for houses

Chinese Pinyin: ménhù

Chinese Meaning: door / gateway / portal / faction / sect / bloc / gang / family / family status / strategic position / important passageway / web portal

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 家族 (kazoku) for the meaning of "family"

Parts:

mén - gate / door / gateway / doorway / entrance / opening / valve / switch / way to do something / knack / family / clan / house / (religious) sect / school (of thought) / gang / class / category / phylum / division (taxonomy) / the key / turning point / a piece (of artillery) / cannon / gate-keeping / counter for large guns / counter for lessons, subjects, branches of technology

hù - door / family / a household

*Note: this word can mean either a physical door or a figurative one (e.g. Japan opened their doors to foreigners)

鳥獸/獸

October 29, 2012

Japanese Romaji: choujuu

Japanese Meaning: birds and wild animals / wildlife

Parts:

chou(to, tori, dori) - bird / chicken / bird meat (especially chicken) / fowl / poultry / a flying animal

juu(kedamono, kemono) - animal / beast / brute / animal covered in fur

Chinese Pinyin: niǎoshòu

Chinese Meaning: birds and beasts / fauna

Parts:

niǎo - bird / (dialect) to pay attention to / (intensifier) damned, goddam

shòu - beast / animal / beastly / bestial / brutal

*Note: the first character also has the Chinese reading “diǎo” which is a variant of 屌

網膜

October 29, 2012

Japanese Romaji: moumaku

Japanese Meaning: retina

Parts:

mou(ami) - net / netting / web / network

maku - membrane / film

Chinese Pinyin: wǎngmó

Chinese Meaning: retina

Parts:

wǎng - net / web / network / dragnet (figurative) / arms of the law / bring together / collect / the Internet

mó - membrane / film / thin coating / to kneel and worship

妖精

October 30, 2012

Japanese Romaji: yousei

Japanese Meaning: fairy / sprite / elf / fay

Japanese to Chinese Translation: see note 1

Parts:

you(aya, oyozure) - bewitching / attractive / calamity

sei(kuwa, shira, shou) - fairy / nymph / sprite / spirit / ghost / energy / vigor / vigour / essence / strength / vitality / life force / one's emotions, mind, or soul / semen / purity / pure / refined / polished / fine details / detailed / conscientious / care / skill / excellence / polished or milled rice

Chinese Pinyin: yāojīng

Chinese Meaning: magical creature / evil spirit / demon / alluring woman

Chinese to Japanese Translation: see note 1

Parts:

yāo - strange / weird / supernatural / unaccountable / monstrous / goblin / witch / devil / bewitching / seductive (woman) / coquettish / enchanting / monster / phantom / ghost / demon / demonic / evil / evil spirit / witchcraft

jīng(jīng) - essence / the essentials / best / extract / concentrate / vitality / energy / vigor / vigour / spirit / goblin / spirit / mythical goblin spirit / demon / semen / sperm / seed / very / extremely / completely / highly perfected / elite / the pick of something / dedicated / intensive / proficient (refined ability) / keen / smart / sharp / clever / skilled / versed / specialize in / exquisite / extremely (fine) / delicate / polished / refined / choice / polished rice / unmixed rice / selected rice (archaic) / (Cantonese) smart or bright

*Note 1: the Japanese term generally refers to creatures in Western mythology and is limited to beings such as fairies, nymphs, and elves. The Chinese term refers to creatures in Asian or Western mythology and includes all sorts of beings, often referring to demons, goblins, elves, etc. having malevolent or mischievous natures. 妖怪 (“youkai”) is used in Japanese to refer to their own brand of supernatural monsters. 妖怪 (“yāoguài”) is used in Chinese to mean the same thing as today’s word.

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 祇

*Note 3: the featured entities include a fairy, a hitotsume kozo, a kuchisake onna, a jiāngshī, and the Ox-Demon-King.

死神

October 30, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shinigami

Japanese Meaning: god of death / Death (personified) / Grim Reaper

Parts:

shini(shi, ji) - death / die / dying / decease / (archaism) death penalty (by strangulation or decapitation)

gami(kami, kamu, kan, shin, jin, mi) - god / gods / deity / divinity / kami / spirit / psyche / mind / soul

*Note 1: technically, the first character only has the readings “shi” and “ji”. However, the Japanese often includes the reading of related hiragana from a verb inside the kanji to abbreviate. For example, the reading “shini” comes from the verb “死ぬ” (shinu), which means “to die”.

*Note 2: 神戸 (the city of Kobe) is read as “koube”

Chinese Pinyin: sǐshén

Chinese Meaning: Death (personified) / the Grim Reaper / Azrael / mythological figure (such as the Grim Reaper) in charge of taking the souls of those who die

Parts:

sǐ - to die / dead / death / impassable / uncrossable / closed / blocked / inflexible / rigid / dogmatic / fixed / unchangeable (regulations, etc.) / immovable (drawers, etc.) / extremely / terribly / unusually / very / condemned / inanimate / dull and stupid / persevering / resolute / resolutely / desperately / stubbornly / irreconcilable / implacable / deadly

shén - God / deity / supernatural being / immortal / divine essence / soul / mind / spirit / unusual / mysterious / lively / expressive / spiritual being / supernatural / marvelous / wondrous / miraculous / mystical / appearance / looks / expressions / air / smart / clever

*Note 3: a variant of the second character is 神

靈魂/靈

October 31, 2012

Japanese Romaji: reikon

Japanese Meaning: soul / spirit / spiritual consciousness and awareness

Parts:

rei(tama, dama, ryou) - soul / spirit / departed soul / ghost

kon(tama, tamashii, dama, damashii) - soul / spirit / Yang energy

Chinese Pinyin: línghún

Chinese Meaning: soul / spirit

Parts:

líng - spirit / (departed) soul / spiritual world / god / deity / holy or supernatural being / miraculous / mysterious / quick / alert / bright / quick-witted / clever / sharp (mind) / nimble / agile / deft / adroit / smooth / efficacious / effective / works well / coffin / bier / thing concerning the deceased

hún - soul / spirit / immortal soul (i.e. that can be detached from the body) / mood

*Note 1: the picture is of the Wanyūdō (輪入道), a flaming oxcart wheel with the soul of a former tyrant that absorbs the souls of anyone caught in its fiery rampage.

*Note 2: another variant of the first character is 霧 A variant of the second character is 覓

鬼魅

October 31, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kimi

Japanese Meaning: demon / monster / apparition

Parts:

ki(oni) - ogre / demon / ogre-like person / devil / ghost / evil spirit / spirit of a deceased person / it (i.e. in a game of tag) / someone of remarkable or diabolical energy or ability (e.g. speed demon)

mi - bewitch / charm / fascination

*Note: some websites show the reading of this word as “kibi”. I wasn’t too sure so I only included the more common “kimi” reading I found.

Chinese Pinyin: guǐmèi

Chinese Meaning: demon / monster / ghosts and goblins / forces of evil

Parts:

guǐ - ghost / spirit / apparition / spirit of dead / devil (contempt or endearment) / sly / crafty / dishonest / improper / illicit / terrible / horrible / damnable / sinister plot / dirty trick

mèi - demon / elf / mischievous spirit / goblin / magic / to charm / fascination / mislead

師範

November 1, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shihan

Japanese Meaning: teacher / coach / master / instructor / model

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 教師 (jiàoshī), see note 1

Parts:

shi(ji) - teacher / master / expert / one's mentor / specialist / model / exemplar / religious leader / army (including counter) / war / (archaism) five-battalion brigade comprising 2500 men (Zhou-dynasty Chinese army)

han(pan) - example / model / pattern

Chinese Pinyin: shīfàn

Chinese Meaning: teacher-training / pedagogical / normal (school)

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 教育学 (kyouikugaku) for the meaning of teacher-training

Parts:

shī - teacher / master / expert / tutor / teach / specialist (especially of medicine, painting, music, etc.) / model after / example / pattern / multitude / division in Chinese army / army / (old) troops / to dispatch troops / local administrative chief

fàn - pattern / model / example / paradigm / boundary / limits / scope / rule / law / control / restrict / keep watch / mould / matrix

*Note 1: this word is usually used to refer to a teacher or a place that teaches potential teachers. That is, the instructors are masters at their subject and models for future teachers. (The subject may be something involving skill or artistic expertise, such as martial arts or ikebana, or simply grade school teacher training).

*Note 2: "Normal school" means a school which teaches the standards or norms of teaching for high school graduates to become teachers. Most normal schools are referred to as "teachers' colleges"

*Note 3: the simplified Chinese version of the second character 范 is also a separate traditional character

条件/條

November 1, 2012

Japanese Romaji: jouken

Japanese Meaning: condition / conditions / term / terms / requirement / requirements

Parts:

jou - article (in a document) / clause / provision / item / streak / stripe / line

ken(kudari, kudan) - a matter / a case / affair / item / subject / passage / paragraph / the above-mentioned / the said / (man, incident, etc.) in question / the usual / example / precedent / counter for cases, matters, etc.

Chinese Pinyin: tiáojiàn

Chinese Meaning: condition / circumstance / term / clause / factor / requirement / prerequisite / qualification

Parts:

tiáo - a strip / long narrow piece / slip / string / stripe / item / article (in a document) / clause / condition / order / orderliness / counter for long thin things (ribbon, river, road, pants, fish, etc.)

jiàn - item / component / counter for events, matters, things, clothes, etc.

*Note: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

氷柱/冰

November 2, 2012

Japanese Romaji: tsurara / hyouchuu

Japanese Meaning: icicle / ice pillar (hyouchuu)

Parts:

tsu(koori, goori, koo, hi, hyou, pyou) - ice / icicle / hail / freeze / congeal / shaved ice (usually served with flavored syrup)

rara(hashira, bashira, chuu) - pillar / post / support / prop / mainstay / cylinder / prism / bridge (of a koto, etc.) / fret (of a biwa, etc.) / counter for buddhas, gods, nobles, etc.

*Note: this is the only word using these two characters with the reading of “tsu” and “rara” for each character.

Chinese Pinyin: bīngzhù

Chinese Meaning: icicle

Parts:

bīng - ice / icicles / ice-cold / cold / frost

zhù - pillar / post / column / pole / column-shaped thing / support / lean on / (math) cylinder

列举/舉

November 2, 2012

Japanese Romaji: rekkyo

Japanese Meaning: enumeration / list

Parts:

retsu(tsura) - column / row / queue / line / tier / rank / file / train / sequence / string

kyo(a, age, kozo) - actions / behaviour / plan / project / to raise

Chinese Pinyin: lièjǔ

Chinese Meaning: a list / to list / enumerate / cite one by one

Parts:

liè - to arrange in order / to line up / enumerate / classify / row / file / a line / series / column / to display

jǔ - to lift / to hold up / to raise / to cite / recommend / commend / to enumerate / to act / to choose / to elect / praise / manner / deportment

*Note: another variant of the second character is 舉

豪傑

November 3, 2012

Japanese Romaji: gouketsu

Japanese Meaning: hero / great man

Parts:

gou(era) - great / powerful / overpowering / tremendous / huge / strong / hard / manly / excelling /
Australia

ketsu(sugu) - excellence / greatness

Chinese Pinyin: háojié

Chinese Meaning: hero / towering figure / man of outstanding abilities

Parts:

háo - grand / heroic / brave / chivalrous / powerful / outstanding / very rich / unrestrained / bold and
forthright / despotic / bullying

jié - hero / heroic / outstanding person / remarkable / prominent / distinguished

*Note: a traditional Chinese variant of the second character is 杰, which is also the simplified Chinese version of it.

概括

November 3, 2012

Japanese Romaji: gaikatsu

Japanese Meaning: summary / generalization / generalisation

Parts:

gai(oomu) - outline / condition / generally / approximation

katsu(kuku, kubi) - fasten / tie up / constrict / arrest

Chinese Pinyin: gàikuò / gàiguā (Taiwan)

Chinese Meaning: to summarize / to generalize / briefly / generally / epitomize / compress / brief / outline

Parts:

gài - generalize / approximate / generally / approximately / broad outline / general idea / without exception / categorically / manner / air / bearing / style

kuò(guā) - to enclose / to include / to embrace / sum up / seek / search for / ransack / come / arrive / to bound / tie / restrain

*Note: 2 variants of the first character are 槩 and 概

丘陵

November 4, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kyuuryou

Japanese Meaning: hill

Parts:

kyuu(oka) - hill / knoll / height / rising ground

ryou(misasagi) - mausoleum / imperial tomb / Emperor's tomb

Chinese Pinyin: qiūlíng

Chinese Meaning: hills

Parts:

qiū - mound / hill / hillock / open country / wild country / elder / big / empty / grave / counter for fields

líng - mound / hill / mountain / mausoleum / tomb of an emperor / offend / insult / outrage / abuse /

usurp / climb / to scale

*Note: a variant of the first character is 丘

束縛

November 4, 2012

Japanese Romaji: sokubaku

Japanese Meaning: restrain / restraint / shackles / restriction / confinement / binding

Parts:

soku(tabi, tsuka, zoku, tawa) - bundle / bunch / sheaf / ream / batch / coil / tie in bundles / control / govern / manage / handbreadth / (math) lattice / strut / short vertical post / thickness (of a book minus the cover, sheaf of paper, etc.) / counter for large bundles (sheaves of rice, sheets of paper, etc.)

baku(shiba, imashi) - to bind / restrain / arrest / tie / truss

Chinese Pinyin: shùfù / shùfú (Taiwan)

Chinese Meaning: to bind / to restrict / to constrain / to tie (up) / to commit / fetters / constraint / to hamper

Parts:

shù - bunch / bundle / bale / to bind / to control / restrain / constrain / counter for bunches, bundles, beams of light, etc.

fù(fú) - to bind / to tie / to attach

暗礁

November 5, 2012

Japanese Romaji: anshou

Japanese Meaning: reef / sunken rock

Parts:

an(kura, gura, yami) - darkness / grow dark / shade / be blinded / disappear / informal

shou - reef / sunken rock

Chinese Pinyin: ànjiāo

Chinese Meaning: submerged reef (rock)

Parts:

àn - dark / dim / gloomy / hidden / secret / in secret / covert / clandestine / stealthy / muddled /
obscure / in the dark / stupid / ignorant

jiāo - reef / jetty / shoal rock / submerged rocks

*Note: the first character is also the simplified Chinese form of 闇 as well as its variant.

鍵盤

November 5, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kenban

Japanese Meaning: keyboard (e.g. piano, computer)

Parts:

ken(kagi) - key (for doors, etc. or of pianos, computers, etc.) / key (clue) / lock

ban - board / platter / grid / disk / disc / phonograph record / clock face / shallow bowl / tray / tub

Chinese Pinyin: jiànpán

Chinese Meaning: keyboard / keypad / keyboard instrument / clavier

Parts:

jiàn - key (for doors, etc. or of pianos, computers, etc.) / door bolt / lock bolt / button (computer mouse or other device) / chemical bond / linchpin

pán - plate / dish / tray / saucer / course (of food) / board / plate-shaped object / to build / to coil / to check / to examine / interrogate / current price / market quotation / to transfer (property) / domain / turf / territory under one's control / to make over / to coil / to twist / to wind / counter for food (dishes, helping, etc.) / counter for coils of wire, spools, reels, etc. / counter for games of chess, tennis, etc.

沿革

November 6, 2012

Japanese Romaji: enkaku

Japanese Meaning: history / development

Parts:

en(so, zo) - follow along / run along / run alongside / lie along

kaku(arata, kawa, gawa) - leather / pelt / skin / hide / become serious

Chinese Pinyin: yán'gé

Chinese Meaning: history / course of development / evolution of something over time / successive changes

Parts:

yán(yàn) - along / parallel to / edge / border / brim / rim / go along / following (a line) / follow a course / follow (tradition, pattern, etc.) / riverside

gé - leather / animal hide / skin / to reform / change / renovate / to remove / get rid of / eliminate / to expel (from office) / armor / soldiers / Chinese percussion musical instruments / urgent / dangerous

*Note: the picture is of various historical variants of the “turtle” character. From left to right: oracle bone script, bronze inscription, large seal script, small seal script, traditional Chinese, Japanese, simplified Chinese

党籍/黨

November 6, 2012

Japanese Romaji: touseki

Japanese Meaning: membership in a party / party register

Parts:

tou - party (political) / clique / faction / -ite

seki - enroll / membership (club, party, etc.) / domiciliary register / one's domicile / one's family register

Chinese Pinyin: dǎngjí

Chinese Meaning: party membership

Parts:

dǎng - party (political) / association / club / society / gang / faction / clique / be partial to / take sides / kinsfolk / relative

jí - registry / register / record / list / census / roll / membership / nationality / book / place of one's family or ancestral records / native place / birthplace / hometown

*Note: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

伴奏

November 7, 2012

Japanese Romaji: bansou

Japanese Meaning: (musical) accompaniment

Parts:

ban(tomo, tomona, han) - accompany / companion / consort / follower / attendant / retinue / bring with

sou(kana) - complete / music / speak to a ruler

Chinese Pinyin: bànzòu

Chinese Meaning: to accompany (musically)

Parts:

bàn - partner / companion / comrade / associate / to accompany / go with / support with accompaniment

zòu - to play music / perform (on a musical instrument) / to achieve / produce / to yield / score / to present a memorial to the emperor / report

*Note: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wV8NR4FWkE>

枢軸/樞

November 7, 2012

Japanese Romaji: suujiku

Japanese Meaning: axle / pivot / axis

Parts:

suu - hinge / pivot / door / sliding wooden bolt

jiku - axis / pivot / stalk / stem / shaft / axle / counter for book scrolls

Chinese Pinyin: shūzhóu

Chinese Meaning: pivot / fulcrum

Parts:

shū - hinge / pivot / hub / center / key position / center of power

zhóu(zhòu) - axis / axle / pivot / axletree / roller / an item on a theatrical programme / counter for scrolls, spools, etc.

*Note: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

拙劣

November 8, 2012

Japanese Romaji: setsuretsu

Japanese Meaning: clumsy / unskillful

Parts:

setsu(tsutana, mazu) - clumsy / bungling / unskillful / (humble, masculine) I

retsu(oto) - inferiority / be worse / be inferior to / minor / sub-

Chinese Pinyin: zhuōliè

Chinese Meaning: clumsy / botched

Parts:

zhuō(zhuó) - awkward / clumsy / dull / stupid / crude / inelegant / convention / (humble) my

liè - inferior / bad / slightly / substandard / unfavourable / bad / evil / wicked

遺贈/贈

November 8, 2012

Japanese Romaji: izou

Japanese Meaning: bequest / legacy

Parts:

i(noko, yui) - bequeath / leave behind / reserve

zou(oku, sou) - presents / send / award to / confer to / give to / presenting something

Chinese Pinyin: yízèng

Chinese Meaning: to bequeath

Parts:

yí(wèi) - to bequeath / hand down / legacy / something lost / articles lost / to lose / to leave behind / to omit / slip over / miss / an omission due to negligence / forget / leave over / remnants / leftovers / abandon / to desert / anything left behind by the deceased / involuntary discharge (of urine, etc.) / (involuntarily) emit / urinate / excrete / offer as a gift / to present / bestow

zèng - to give as a present / send (gift) / to repel / bestow / confer (title) / (archaism) to bestow an honorary title after death

怨恨

November 9, 2012

Japanese Romaji: enkon

Japanese Meaning: enmity / grudge

Parts:

en(ura, on) - be jealous / grudge / show resentment

kon(ura) - bear a grudge / hate / malice / regret / resentment

Chinese Pinyin: yuànhèn

Chinese Meaning: hate / to hate / grudge / resentment / hatred

Parts:

yuàn - hatred / enmity / resentment / resent / feel bitter / feel aggrieved / to blame / to complain / to rail

hèn - to hate / hatred / dislike / resent / to regret / remorse

団扇/團

November 9, 2012

Japanese Romaji: uchiwa

Japanese Meaning: circular fan

Parts:

uchi(dan, ton, don) - association / group / body (group) / party / company / troupe

wa(ao, ougi, sen) - fan / folding fan

*Note 1: this is the only word using these two characters with the reading of “uchi” and “wa” for each character.

Chinese Pinyin: tuánshàn

Chinese Meaning: circular fan

Parts:

tuán - group / party / society / organization / mission / regiment / round / circular / circle / sphere / ball / mass / lump

shàn(shān) - fan / to fan / sliding, hinged, or detachable flat part of something / door panel / to slap somebody on the face / counter for doors, windows, etc.

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 搏 A variant of the second character is 搨

忘却/卻

November 10, 2012

Japanese Romaji: boukyaku

Japanese Meaning: lapse of memory / forgetfulness / oblivion

Parts:

bou(wasu) - forget

kyaku(kae) - instead / on the contrary / rather

Chinese Pinyin: wàngquè

Chinese Meaning: to forget / fade from memory / oblivion

Parts:

wàng - to forget / to overlook / to neglect / to miss / omit

què - but / yet / still / however / while / to go back / to decline / refuse / accept / to retreat / withdraw /

nevertheless / even though

*Note: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

操縦/縦

November 10, 2012

Japanese Romaji: soujuu

Japanese Meaning: steering / piloting / operation / management / handling / control / manipulation

Parts:

sou(ayatsu, misao) - honor / honour / faith / chastity / fidelity / virginity / maneuver / manipulate / operate / steer

juu(tate, tato, hoshiimama, shou, yo) - height / vertical / front-to-back / length / north-to-south / vertical (relationship) / hierarchy / wayward / self-indulgent / selfish / arbitrary / at will / warp (the vertical threads in weaving) / even if

Chinese Pinyin: cāozòng

Chinese Meaning: to operate / to control / to command / to rig / to manipulate / to maneuver / to influence

Parts:

cāo - to grasp / to hold / to seize / be engaged in / to operate / to manage / to conduct / to take up / to control / to run (something) / to steer / to exercise / to drill (practice) / exercise / gymnastics / to play / to speak (a language or dialect) / conduct / behaviour / integrity

zòng - vertical / lengthwise / longitudinal / north-south (lines of longitude) / give free reign to / to release / to set loose / set free / allow to work or move freely / let go / let fly / to indulge / indulgence / let loose / connive / jump up / leap / spring forward / even if / even though / although / warp (the vertical threads in weaving)

*Note 1: this word can refer to the control of some kind of machinery or device (planes, cars, ships, etc.), or some sort of control that something / someone might have over someone / something else.

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 搽

*Note 3: the first character has an alternate reading in Chinese (cào), which is a swear word.

艦隊

November 11, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kantai

Japanese Meaning: (naval) fleet / armada

Parts:

kan - warship

tai - regiment / squad / party / company (of troops) / group / crew / team / body / corps / unit

Chinese Pinyin: jiànduì

Chinese Meaning: (naval) fleet / armada

Parts:

jiàn - warship / naval vessel / man-of-war

duì - squadron / team / group / squad / army unit / troops / batch / line / queue / row / file / to push or stab / to thrust / to crash into a car / (Cantonese) variant of 撞

葬儀

November 11, 2012

Japanese Romaji: sougi

Japanese Meaning: funeral service

Parts:

sou(houmu) - bury / interment / to shelve

gi - ceremony / a matter / affair / a case / rule / with regard to (used after a person's name, a personal pronoun, etc. in epistolary style) / as for / as concerns

Chinese Pinyin: zàngyí

Chinese Meaning: funeral / obsequies

Parts:

zàng - to bury (the dead) / to inter / entomb

yí - ceremony / etiquette / rites / appearance / bearing / deportment / present / gift / gratuity / rites
gifts / apparatus / instrument / admire / yearn / long for

*Note: a variant of the first character is 塋

秩序

November 12, 2012

Japanese Romaji: chitsujo

Japanese Meaning: order (orderly) / regularity / peace / system / method

Parts:

chitsu - order / regularity / salary

jo(tsui, tsuide) - chance / incidentally / occasion / opportunity / order / ordering / precedence /
beginning / start / preface / foreword / introduction

Chinese Pinyin: zhìxù

Chinese Meaning: order (orderly) / law and order / order (sequence) / social order / the state (of
society)

Parts:

zhì - order / orderliness / sequence / salary / stipend / decade

xù - order / sequence / series / serial order / preface / foreword / prelude / introduction

局限

November 12, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kyokugen

Japanese Meaning: limit / localise / localize

Parts:

kyoku(tsubone) - office / bureau / board / channel (i.e. TV or radio) / station / department / affair / situation / conclusion / court lady (Heian period) / lady-in-waiting / her apartment / separate room in a palace (esp. for a lady) (Heian period)

gen(kagi, ki, kiri, gi, giri) - limit / restrict / to best of ability

Chinese Pinyin: júxiàn

Chinese Meaning: to limit / confine / localize / to restrict something within set boundaries

Parts:

jú - office / bureau / situation / circumstance / state of affairs / proving / game / counter for games (match, set, round, etc.)

xiàn - limit / bound / boundary / restriction / to set a limit (on) / line / doorsill / threshold / specify / fix

*Note: the first character is also the simplified Chinese form of 侷 (jú, narrow). In Chinese, this word can also be written as 侷限

緩慢

November 13, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kanman

Japanese Meaning: slow / sluggish / dull / slack / lax

Parts:

kan(yuru, nuru) - ease / relax / slacken / loosen / lessen / be moderate

man - laziness / ridicule

Chinese Pinyin: huǎnmàn

Chinese Meaning: slow / slow-moving / tardy

Parts:

huǎn - slow / unhurried / leisurely / sluggish / gradual / tardy / not tense / relaxed / to postpone / to defer / to delay / to stall / to put off / slacken / to stave off / to revive / to recuperate / come to / refresh

màn - slow / slowly / unhurried / leisurely / sluggish / negligent / haughty / rude / disrespectful / arrogant / supercilious / discourteous / postpone / defer

沼沢/澤

November 13, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shoutaku

Japanese Meaning: marsh / swamp / bog

Parts:

shou(numa) - bog / marsh / swamp / lake / pond

taku(daku, sawa, zawa) - swamp / marsh / wetlands / mountain stream / stream near its headwaters / valley / dale

Chinese Pinyin: zhǎozé

Chinese Meaning: marsh / swamp / bog / wetlands / glade

Parts:

zhǎo - pond / pool / lake / fishpond / swamp / marsh

zé - pool / pond / marsh / swamp / lustre (of metals, etc.) / grace / bright / brilliance / radiance / glossy / smooth / favor / kindness / beneficence / benefit / enrich / damp / moist / fertile

鍋蓋

November 14, 2012

Japanese Romaji: nabebuta

Japanese Meaning: pan lid / pot lid

Parts:

nabe - pot / pan / saucepan / kettle

buta(oo, keda, futa, gai) - lid / cover / flap / cap

Chinese Pinyin: guōgài

Chinese Meaning: saucepan lid / (satellite) dish

Parts:

guō - pot / pan / saucepan / cooking pot / cauldron / pot-shaped thing / boiler

gài(gě) - lid / top / cover / cap / canopy / shell / to cover / put a lid on / envelope / film / to conceal / to hide / cover up / drown out / affix / impress / imprint / stamp / protect / to build / construct / to raise / to erect / surpass / excel / about / around / approximately / for / because

*Note: a variant of the second character is 蓋

揮毫

November 14, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kigou

Japanese Meaning: writing / drawing / painting

Parts:

ki(furu) - brandish / shake / swing / wag / to wave

gou - brush / fine hair / not at all

Chinese Pinyin: huīháo

Chinese Meaning: to write or draw with a brush / to put pen to paper / to write

Parts:

huī - brandish / wield (sword, weapon, etc.) / to wave / move / shake / swing (fists) / make a light or rapid stroke / to wipe away (swear, tears, etc.) / to command / to conduct / to direct / to scatter / to sprinkle / to disperse / squander

háo - hair / drawing brush / writing brush / fine, tapering animal hair / (in the) least / to the slightest degree / one thousandth / milli- / measure of length

*Note: this word particularly refers to work done using a brush.

取得

November 15, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shutoku

Japanese Meaning: acquisition

Parts:

shu(to, do) - take / take up / fetch

toku(u, e, doku) - able to / can / may / acquire / gain / get / earn / profit / find / advantage / benefit

Chinese Pinyin: qǔdé

Chinese Meaning: to acquire / to get / to obtain

Parts:

qǔ - to take / to get / receive / obtain / to fetch / take hold of / to choose / select / summon / recall / marry / take a wife

dé(děi, de) - to obtain / to get / to gain / acquire / to catch (a disease) / proper / suitable / to fit / to suit / proud / contented / satisfied / complacent / to allow / to permit / be ready / be finished / All right! / to have to / must / ought to / to need to / take / structural particle: used after a verb (or adjective as main verb), linking it to following phrase indicating effect, degree, possibility, etc.

訴訟

November 15, 2012

Japanese Romaji: soshou

Japanese Meaning: lawsuit / litigation

Parts:

so(utta) - accusation / appeal to / to sue / complain of pain

shou - accuse / to sue

Chinese Pinyin: sùsòng

Chinese Meaning: lawsuit / litigation

Parts:

sù - to complain / to sue / to charge / accuse / indict / to tell / inform / narrate / relate / pour out

sòng - litigation / lawsuit / legal / accuse / go to court / argue / dispute / debate / contend

*Note: a variant of the second character is 訟

封鎖

November 16, 2012

Japanese Romaji: fuusa

Japanese Meaning: blockade / freezing (funds)

Parts:

fuu(puu, hou, pou) - closing / seal

sa(kusari, toza) - chain /chains / connection / irons

Chinese Pinyin: fēngsuǒ

Chinese Meaning: to blockade / to seal off

Parts:

fēng - to seal / to close / to block / letter / envelope / wrapper / covering / to confer / to grant / to bestow a title / feudal / counter for sealed objects, especially letters

suǒ - to lock up / to lock / fasten / lock / padlock / shackles / chains / fetters

*Note: a variant of the second character is 鎖

飢餓

November 16, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kiga

Japanese Meaning: hunger / starvation / famine

Parts:

ki(u, katsu) - hungry / starve

ga(u, katsu) - hungry / starve / thirst

Chinese Pinyin: jī'è

Chinese Meaning: hunger / starvation / famine

Parts:

jī - hungry / hunger / starving / starved / famished / famine / crop failure

è - hungry / hunger / starve / greedy for / covetous

*Note: a variant of the first character is 饑

瞳孔

November 17, 2012

Japanese Romaji: doukou

Japanese Meaning: pupil (of the eye) / pupillary

Parts:

dou(hitomi) - pupil (of the eye) / eye

kou(ana, ku) - hole / slit / cavity / great / very / exceedingly / deficit / shortage / missing person (in a team, meeting, etc.) / vacancy / opening / flaw / profitable place (or item, etc.) not well known by others / upset victory (with a large payoff) / (slang) pit (of a theater) / (archaism) hiding place / (archaism) underbelly (of society, etc.)

Chinese Pinyin: tóngkǒng

Chinese Meaning: pupil (of the eye)

Parts:

tóng - pupil (of the eye)

kǒng - hole / opening / orifice / aperture / bore / great / very / exceedingly / urgent / badly / counter for cave dwellings / of or pertaining to Confucius or Confucianism

凡庸

November 17, 2012

Japanese Romaji: bon'you

Japanese Meaning: mediocre / banality / commonplace

Parts:

bon(ooyoso, oyo, sube, han) - mediocre / mediocrity

you - commonplace / ordinary / employment / tax paid to avoid forced labor (ritsuryo period)

Chinese Pinyin: fányōng

Chinese Meaning: ordinary / mediocre / commonplace

Parts:

fán - ordinary / commonplace / common / mundane / temporal / worldly / mortal / earthly / of the material world (as opposed to supernatural or immortal levels) / every / all / any / whatever / whenever / wherever / altogether / gist / outline

yōng - ordinary / usual / common / commonplace / mediocre / second-rate / need / require / (rhetorical) how / in what way / to use

*Note: a variant of the first character is 凡

拡充/擴

November 18, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kakujuu

Japanese Meaning: expansion

Parts:

kaku(hiro) - broaden / enlarge / expand / extend

juu(a, mi) - allot / fill

Chinese Pinyin: kuòchōng

Chinese Meaning: expansion

Parts:

kuò - enlarge / expand / stretch / extend / magnify

chōng - to fill / to satisfy / to stuff / to charge / to fulfill / sufficient / full / ample / supply / pretend to be / pose as / pass for / to act in place of / serve as / act as / substitute

*Note 1: this word usually refers to expansion of things such as companies, institutions, systems, etc.

*Note 2: another variant of the first character is 挑

雅致

November 18, 2012

Japanese Romaji: gachi

Japanese Meaning: elegance / good taste / artistry / grace

Parts:

ga(miyabi) - elegant / elegance / grace / graceful / gracious / refined / refinement / festal song (genre of the Shi Jing)

chi(ita) - do / doth / cause / engage / exert / incur / forward / send

Chinese Pinyin: yǎzhì

Chinese Meaning: elegant / refined / in good taste / poetic sense

Parts:

yǎ - elegant / graceful / refined / polished / sophisticated / not common / not vulgar / usually / often / frequently / much / friendship / acquaintance / wine vessel / your (polite) / the name of an ancient musical instrument

zhì - to send / to deliver / to present / to convey / to express / extend / to cause / incur / result in / bring about / achieve / to devote (one's efforts, etc.) to / manner or style that engages attention

*Note 1: the second character is also the simplified Chinese version of 緻

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 𪛗

慈善

November 19, 2012

Japanese Romaji: jizen

Japanese Meaning: charity / benevolence / philanthropy

Parts:

ji(itsuku) - mercy

zen(i, yo) - good / goodness / virtuous / right

Chinese Pinyin: císhàn

Chinese Meaning: benevolent / charitable

Parts:

cí - compassionate / gentle / merciful / kind / loving / fond / have affection for / charitable / benevolent / humane / maternal / mother

shàn - good (virtuous) / benevolent / charitable / kind / goodness / virtue / good deeds / well-disposed / good at something / skilled in / to improve / to perfect / make a success of / remedy / relieve / properly

*Note: a variant of the second character is 善

栽培

November 19, 2012

Japanese Romaji: saibai

Japanese Meaning: cultivation / grow plants

Parts:

sai(zai) - plantation / planting

bai(tsuchika) - cultivate / foster

Chinese Pinyin: zāipéi

Chinese Meaning: to cultivate / to grow (something) / to foster / nurture / to train / to educate / to patronize

Parts:

zāi - to grow / cultivate / to plant / to care for plants / young plant / seedling / sapling / to insert / to stick in / to force on somebody / to force something on / to fall head first / tumble / fall / be frustrated

péi - foster / cultivate / to train / to cultivate / to earth up / bank up with dirt

更迭

November 20, 2012

Japanese Romaji: koutetsu

Japanese Meaning: change / a switch / shake-up / reshuffle (e.g. of a cabinet) / dismissal (e.g. of a minister) / exchanging places

Parts:

kou(sara, fu) - grow late / night watch / sit up late / of course / obvious / natural / new

tetsu - alternation / transfer

Chinese Pinyin: gēngdié

Chinese Meaning: to alternate / to change

Parts:

gēng(gèng) - to change / to replace / alter / to experience / watch (e.g. of a sentry or guard) / shift / shift duty / night-watch / more / even more / further / furthermore / still / still more / what is more

dié - alternately / repeatedly / frequently / again and again / change / be in time for

陰曆/曆

November 20, 2012

Japanese Romaji: inreki

Japanese Meaning: lunar calendar

Parts:

in(kage, on) - shade / shadow / other side / back / background / negative / secret / yin / unseen location / reproductive organs

reki(koyomi, goyomi, ryaku) - calendar / almanac

Chinese Pinyin: yīnlì

Chinese Meaning: lunar calendar

Parts:

yīn - overcast (weather) / cloudy / shady / shade / shadow / the back side / dark / yin / negative / feminine / female / moon / implicit / hidden / secret / genitalia / reproductive organs / north side of a mountain / south side of a stream / cunning / crafty / injure another in a clandestine manner / hell / time

lì - calendar / era / age / calculate / count

*Note 1: 4 variants of the first character are 陰 隤 陰 鬱 Another variant of the second character is 厯

*Note 2: technically speaking, the calendar used in traditional Chinese is a “lunisolar” calendar. The term “lunar calendar” can still refer to it or the Islamic calendar.

恥辱

November 21, 2012

Japanese Romaji: chijoku

Japanese Meaning: disgrace / shame / insult

Parts:

chi(ha, haji, paji) - shame / embarrassment / dishonor

joku(haji, hazukashi) - embarrassment / shame / humiliate

Chinese Pinyin: chǐrǔ

Chinese Meaning: disgrace / shame / humiliation

Parts:

chǐ - shame / disgrace / humiliation / ashamed / dishonor / dishonour / feel humiliated / feel disgraced

rǔ(rù) - disgrace / dishonor / dishonour / to insult / humiliate / humiliation / to abuse / to bring disgrace
or humiliation to / to be indebted to / be grateful to / be honoured / self-deprecating

晴朗

November 21, 2012

Japanese Romaji: seirou

Japanese Meaning: clear (skies) / fair / fine / serene

Parts:

sei(ha, hare, ba, bare) - clear up (e.g. weather)

rou(hoga) - bright / clear / cheerful / melodious / serene

Chinese Pinyin: qínglǎng

Chinese Meaning: clear (skies) / fine / sunny / cloudless

Parts:

qíng - clear (weather) / fine / sunny

lǎng - clear / bright / distinct / light / loud / resonant / sonorous

*Note: a variant of the first character is 醒 Two variants of the second character are 脰 and 朗

功德/德

November 22, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kudoku

Japanese Meaning: pious act / virtuous deed / act of charity

Parts:

ku(isao, kou) - achievement / credit / honor / merits / success / meritorious deed / distinguished service / accumulated experience

doku(toku) - benevolence / goodness / virtue / commanding respect / profit / benefit / advantage

Chinese Pinyin: gōngdé

Chinese Meaning: achievements and virtue / charitable and pious deeds / beneficence / benefaction / good deeds and merits / works

Parts:

gōng - achievement / result / service / merit / meritorious deed or service / accomplishment / good result / exploit / usefulness / effectiveness / function / work (physics)

dé - virtue / goodness / morality / ethics / kindness / favor / character / kind / personal energy / German

*Note 1: this word is often used in a religious context

*Note 2: 3 more variants of the second character are 惠 惠 惠

午餐

November 22, 2012

Japanese Romaji: gosan

Japanese Meaning: lunch / luncheon

Parts:

go(uma) - noon / sign of the horse (zodiac) / seventh sign of the Chinese zodiac

san(zan) - eat / drink / swallow / dining (archaic)

Chinese Pinyin: wǔcān

Chinese Meaning: lunch / luncheon

Parts:

wǔ - noon / sign of the horse (zodiac) / seventh sign of the Chinese zodiac

cān - meal / food / dinner / eat / dine / have a meal / counter for meals

*Note: a variant of the second character is 飧

懲戒/懲

November 23, 2012

Japanese Romaji: choukai

Japanese Meaning: discipline / punishment / reprimand

Parts:

chou(ko) - punish / chastise / discipline / penal

kai(imashi) - commandment / admonition

Chinese Pinyin: chéngjiè

Chinese Meaning: to discipline / reprimand

Parts:

chéng - to punish / to reprimand / penalize / chasten / to discipline / to warn

jiè - to guard against / to exhort / to admonish / to warn / to caution / avoid / to give up / to stop doing something / abstain from / quit / religious discipline / commandment / Buddhist monastic discipline / ring (for a finger)

奴隸/隸

November 23, 2012

Japanese Romaji: dorei

Japanese Meaning: slave / servant / slavery

Parts:

do(yakko, yatsu, nu, me) - slave / manservant / servant / chivalrous man / (derogatory or familiar) fellow / guy / chap / he / she / him / her / derogatory suffix (referring to others) / humble suffix (referring to oneself) / thing / object

rei - criminal / prisoner / slave / servant / follower

Chinese Pinyin: núlì

Chinese Meaning: slave

Parts:

nú - slave / servant / a self-derogatory expression used by a girl to refer to herself in former times / despicable yes-man

lì - attached to / be subservient to / be subordinate to / affiliated to / be under / servant / scribe / slave / person in servitude / underling

貧乏

November 24, 2012

Japanese Romaji: binbou

Japanese Meaning: poverty / destitute / poor

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 貧窮 (pínqióng)

Parts:

bin(mazu, hin, pin) - poor / poverty

bou(tobo, tomo) - destitution / limited / scarce

Chinese Pinyin: pínfá

Chinese Meaning: poor / lacking / incomplete / short (of something) / insufficient / deficient / meager

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 貧弱 (hinjaku) for the meaning of "insufficient"

Parts:

pín - poor / impoverished / destitute / needy / inadequate / insufficient / deficient / garrulous / talkative / lack / be short of / need / require / a term of humble self-address for a monk, nun, etc.

fá - short of / lack / deficient / poor / tired / weary / exhausted / worn-out / spent

*Note: the Japanese term refers to a lack of money or resources only whereas the Chinese term includes deficiencies in other areas (e.g. limited knowledge in a particular field, weak arguments, ignorance, inexperience, low quality, etc.)

吐露

November 24, 2012

Japanese Romaji: toro

Japanese Meaning: express one's mind / speak out / pour out (one's heart) / confess / reveal / express / lay bare (one's thoughts) / expression of one's sentiments

Parts:

to(tsu, dzu, do, ha) - confess / belch / spit / tell (lies) / spit / vomit

ro(arawa, tsuyu, rou) - dew / tears / exposed / scanty / bare / unconcealed / naked / public / open /

(Abbreviation) Russia

Chinese Pinyin: tǔlù

Chinese Meaning: to reveal / to tell / to disclose / confess / to confide / to give vent to / to give one's voice to

Parts:

tǔ(tù) - to say / to utter / tell / pour out / to spit out / blow out / stick out / to put / send out / put forth / to vomit / to throw up / spew up / cough up / give up unwillingly / disgorge

lù(lòu) - dew / syrup / nectar / outdoors (not under cover) / to show / to reveal / to betray / to expose / bare / open / exposed / uncovered / be in the open / a cold soothing and aromatic drink / beverages or cosmetics distilled from flowers, fruits, or leaves / (Abbreviation) Russia

祭壇

November 25, 2012

Japanese Romaji: saidan

Japanese Meaning: altar

Parts:

sai(matsu, matsuri) - festival / feast / celebrate / deify / enshrine / offer prayers / ritual / worship

dan(tan) - podium / platform / rostrum / stage / terrace

Chinese Pinyin: jìtán

Chinese Meaning: altar

Parts:

jì(zhài) - to offer sacrifice / sacrifice to / worship / ceremonial / honour by a rite or service / festive occasion / wield

tán - altar / platform for sacrificial rites / arena / examination hall / hall for important meetings and ceremonies in ancient China

提携/攜

November 25, 2012

Japanese Romaji: teikei

Japanese Meaning: cooperation / coalition / partnership / association / tie-up / joint business / link-up / form an alliance / join hands

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 联盟 (liánméng)

Parts:

tei(sa, dai, chou) - carry in hand / propose / take along

kei(tazusa) - armed with / bring along / carry (in hand) / portable

Chinese Pinyin: tíxié

Chinese Meaning: to lead by the hand / to guide / to support

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 案内 (an'nai), 支援 (shien)

Parts:

tí - hold in hand / to carry (hanging down from the hand) / to lift in hand / pull up / arouse / to raise / to put forward / to mention / bring forward / suggest / propose (a motion, etc.) / to raise (an issue) / cause to rise or happen / obtain / make delivery / draw out / manage / control / portable / mobile / upwards character stroke / lifting brush stroke (in painting) / scoop for measuring liquid

xié(xī) - to carry / to take along / take somebody by the hand / take with / lead by hand / to bring along / to hold (hands) / lead / help

*Note: another variant of the second character is 攜

吉兆

November 26, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kitchou

Japanese Meaning: lucky omen / good omen

Parts:

kitsu(yoshi, kichi) - good luck (especially omikuji fortune-telling result) / good fortune / auspiciousness / joy / congratulations

chou(kiza) - omen / sign / indication / symptoms / portent / trillion (US) / billion (UK) /

1,000,000,000,000

Chinese Pinyin: jízhào

Chinese Meaning: lucky omen / auspicious sign

Parts:

jí - lucky / auspicious / propitious / fortunate / good / giga- (billion) / (Cantonese) vacant, unoccupied, empty

zhào - omen / sign / portent / to foretell / portend / forebode / million (China) / mega- / trillion (Taiwan) / tera-

排他

November 26, 2012

Japanese Romaji: haita

Japanese Meaning: exclusion

Parts:

hai - exclude / expel / reject / repudiate

ta(hoka) - other / another / the others / some other

Chinese Pinyin: páitā

Chinese Meaning: exclusive / excluding

Parts:

pái - a row / a line / rank / to set in order / put in order / to arrange / fall in line / to line up / to eliminate / to drain / clear out / discharge / to push open / platoon / raft / reject / expel / exclude / rehearse / counter for lines, rows, etc.

tā - he / she / him / her / it / other / another / different / elsewhere / future / (pronoun for either sex when sex is unknown or unimportant) / (used before somebody's name for emphasis) / (used as a meaningless mock object)

*Note: in Chinese, the second character is commonly used as the pronoun "him" or "he". The female equivalent ("her" and "she") is 她 (tā). For animals, 牠 (tā) is used. 您 (tān) is a courteous version. In Japanese, 彼 (kare) can be used for males and 彼女 (kanojo) for females, but they are not used frequently since Japanese grammar doesn't often require pronouns.

若干

November 27, 2012

Japanese Romaji: jakkan

Japanese Meaning: some / few / a number of / a little (bit) / somewhat / to a certain extent

Parts:

jaku(goto, shi, mo, waka, wakou, nyaku) - if / perhaps / possibly / low number / young / youth / immature / child / new

kan(hi, ho, hoshi, bo, boshi) - dry / parch

Chinese Pinyin: ruògān

Chinese Meaning: several / a few / some / a certain number or amount / how many? / how much?

Parts:

ruò - to seem / like / similar / as / if / suppose / supposing / assuming / provided that / you / young

gān - to concern / involve / have to do with / to interfere / interrupt / to trouble / oppose / offend / violate / affront / invade / dried

*Note: the second character is also the simplified Chinese version of 乾 and 幹

押韻

November 27, 2012

Japanese Romaji: ouin

Japanese Meaning: rhyming

Parts:

ou(o, osa) - press / push / shove / attach / seal / check / seize / stop / subdue / do in spite of / weight

in - elegance / rhyme / tone

Chinese Pinyin: yāyùn

Chinese Meaning: to rhyme

Parts:

yā - mortgage / pledge / to stake / deposit / to pawn / to arrest / detain / to detain in custody / imprison
/ to guard / escort / signature / sign / mark / to rhyme

yùn - beautiful sound / melodious sound / harmonious tone / appeal / charm / beauty / vowel / rhyme

*Note: in Chinese, this word is sometimes written as 壓韻

威嚇

November 28, 2012

Japanese Romaji: ikaku

Japanese Meaning: menace / threat / intimidation / to threaten / intimidate

Parts:

i(odo) - dignity / majesty / power / authority / might / influence / menace / threaten / intimidate

kaku(odo) - dignity / majesty / menacing / threaten

Chinese Pinyin: wēihè

Chinese Meaning: to threaten / to intimidate / to cow

Parts:

wēi - power / might / prestige / authority / pomp / powerful / dominate / dignity / majesty / awe /
awe-inspiring / the mother of one's husband

hè(xià) - to scare / to frighten / to intimidate / to threaten / to startle / (interjection showing
disapproval) tut-tut, humph / (interjection showing astonishment)

召喚

November 28, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shoukan

Japanese Meaning: summons

Parts:

shou(me, meshi) - drink / eat / put on / ride in / buy / call / catch (cold) / send for / wear / seduce

kan(yo, wame) - scream / cry / yell

Chinese Pinyin: zhàohuàn

Chinese Meaning: to summon / to beckon / to call

Parts:

zhào(shào) - to call together / to summon / call up / imperial decree / to convene / cause / invite / temple / monastery

huàn(huan) - to call / summon / invite / be called / arouse

弔慰

November 29, 2012

Japanese Romaji: choui

Japanese Meaning: condolence / sympathy / mourning

Parts:

chou(tobura, tomura) - condolences / mourning / funeral

i(nagusa) - amusement / cheer / make sport of / comfort / consolation / to console / seduce

Chinese Pinyin: diàowèi

Chinese Meaning: to offer condolences / to console the bereaved / commiserate

Parts:

diào - to lament / to condole with / to console / reminisce / mourn / pity / hang

wèi - to comfort / to console / to calm / to soothe / to reassure / feel relieved

脅迫

November 29, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kyouhaku

Japanese Meaning: coercion / threat / menace / terrorism

Parts:

kyou(odo, obi, obiya) - coerce / threaten

haku(se, sema, seri, paku) - to force / spur on / urge / imminent

Chinese Pinyin: xiépò

Chinese Meaning: coerce / coercion / compel / intimidation / to threaten with force / terrorize / duress

Parts:

xié - to coerce / to threaten / to force / flank (the side of one's torso, side of human body between armpit and waist) / ribs / armpits / shrug (shoulders)

pò(pǎi) - to force / to compel / coerce / to press / to stress / to approach / to go towards / come near / urgent / imminent / pressing / (Cantonese) crowded, jammed, packed with / (Cantonese) to jostle, to shove, push / trench mortar

*Note 1: in Japanese, 脇 and 脅 are treated as two separate characters and are never interchangeable (roughly dividing the meanings of “side” and “threaten”). In traditional Chinese, 脇 and 脅 share meanings and are variants of each other, with 脅 being most commonly used. For this project, I am counting 脇 and 脅 as two characters.

*Note 2: another variant of the first character is 脅. A variant of the second character is 迫

多寡

November 30, 2012

Japanese Romaji: taka

Japanese Meaning: quantity / number / amount

Parts:

ta(oo) - frequent / many / much / multi-

ka(yamome) - few / minority / widow

Chinese Pinyin: duōguǎ

Chinese Meaning: number / amount

Parts:

duō - many / much / much more / a lot of / numerous / more / more than / greatly / highly / very / over / in excess / too much / to praise / only / how (to what extent) / multi-

guǎ - few / little / scant / rare / alone / lonely / solitary / friendless / widowed

*Note: a variant of the first character is 𡗗

敷布

November 30, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shikifu

Japanese Meaning: (bed) sheet / sheeting

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 床單 (chuángdān)

Parts:

shiki(shi, ji, jiki, fu) - spread / spreading / laying out / covering / pave / promulgate / sit / (abbreviation)
security deposit / (abbreviation) Japanese mattress / suffix indicating room size (following a number of tatami mats and a counter)

fu(shi, nuno, no, bu, pu) - cloth / linen / unit of measurement for cloth breadth (30-38 cm) / bujian
(spade-shaped bronze coin of ancient China)

Chinese Pinyin: fūbù

Chinese Meaning: compresses / medical dressing / bandage

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 包帯 (houtai)

Parts:

fū - to spread / diffuse / to lay out / to apply (powder, ointment, etc.) / to paint / put on / be sufficient
(to cover) / suffice / be enough

bù - (cotton) cloth / textiles / linen / to declare / to announce / proclaim / to spread / to make known /
display / distribute / disseminate / spread out

*Note: a variant of the first character is 敷. The second character is also the simplified Chinese form and
a variant of 佈.

擁護

December 1, 2012

Japanese Romaji: yougo

Japanese Meaning: advocacy / protection (of rights, etc.) / support / defence / championship / vindication

Parts:

you - embrace / hug / possess / protect / lead

go(mamo) - protect / safeguard

Chinese Pinyin: yōnghù

Chinese Meaning: advocate / to support / to endorse / uphold / to back/ stand up for / allegiance

Parts:

yōng(yǒng) - to hold / to embrace / to hug / squeeze / to wrap around / to gather around (somebody) / to throng / crowd (around) / to swarm / to support / uphold / endorse / to possess / to own / to have

hù - to protect / to guard / defend / shelter / to shield / take sides / be partial to

軌跡

December 1, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kiseki

Japanese Meaning: tire track / traces of a person or thing / path one has taken / locus (math)

Parts:

ki - track / model / way of doing / wheel / rut

seki(ato, to) - trace / mark / print / footprint / tracks / sign / impression / remains / ruins / scar

Chinese Pinyin: guǐjì

Chinese Meaning: track / orbit / trajectory / contrail / locus (math)

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 軌道 (kidou) for the meanings of orbit, trajectory, and train tracks

Parts:

guǐ - course / path / track / rail / rut / order / regulation / rule / form / law

jì - footprint / mark / trace / tracks / vestige / outward sign / indication / to search

*Note: 2 variants of the second character are 蹟迹

誘拐

December 2, 2012

Japanese Romaji: yuukai

Japanese Meaning: abduction / kidnapping

Parts:

yuu(izana, obi, saso) - invite / entice / allure / seduce / tempt / ask for / to call / to lead

kai(kadowa) - falsify / kidnap

Chinese Pinyin: yòuguǎi

Chinese Meaning: to abduct / to kidnap

Parts:

yòu - to entice / to tempt / to lure / seduce / persuade / induce / guide / lead to

guǎi - to kidnap (especially through trickery) / abduct / swindle / cheat / defraud / limp / hobble / to (take a) turn / change direction / to shanghai / a cane / walking stick / crutch

*Note: a variant of the first character is 誘

珠玉

December 2, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shugyoku

Japanese Meaning: gem / jewel / (literary) gem

Parts:

shu(tama, ju) - gem / jewel (spherical) / pearl / ball / sphere / globe / orb / bead (of sweat, dew, etc.) / drop / droplet / ball (in sports) / pile (of noodles, etc.) / bullet / bulb (e.g. light bulb) / lens (of glasses, etc.) / bead (of an abacus) / (slang) testicle / female entertainer (e.g. geisha) / (derogatory) person's character / item, funds or person used as part of a plot / (chicken's) egg / coin / precious / beautiful / excellent

gyoku(tama, dama) - ball / sphere / globe / orb / bead (of sweat, dew, etc.) / drop / droplet / ball (in sports) / pile (of noodles, etc.) / bullet / bulb (e.g. light bulb) / lens (of glasses, etc.) / bead (of an abacus) / (slang) testicle / gem / jewel (spherical, sometimes used figuratively) / pearl / female entertainer (e.g. geisha) / (derogatory) person's character / item, funds or person used as part of a plot / (chicken's) egg (sometimes especially as a sushi topping) / coin / precious / beautiful / excellent / precious stone (especially jade) / stock or security being traded / product being bought or sold / position (in finance, the amount of a security either owned or owed by an investor or dealer) / king (shogi) / time charge for a geisha

Chinese Pinyin: zhūyù

Chinese Meaning: pearls and jades / jewels / clever remark / beautiful writing / gems of wisdom / genius / outstanding person

Parts:

zhū - precious stone / gem / jewel / pearl / bead / a drop / pupil of the eye

yù - jade / precious stone / gem / pure (woman) / fair / beautiful / graceful / slender / elegant / polite expression for "your"

*Note: in Cantonese, this word is pronounced the same as 豬肉 (pork)

沈没/沉没

December 3, 2012

Japanese Romaji: chinbotsu

Japanese Meaning: sinking / foundering / going down / submersion

Parts:

chin(shizu, jin) - be submerged / to sink / subside / be depressed / aloe

botsu(mo) - discard / lacking / without / disappear / death / die / drown / sink / fall into / hide

Chinese Pinyin: chénmò

Chinese Meaning: to sink / to go under

Parts:

chén(chēn) - to submerge / to immerse / submerge / to sink / to keep down / to lower / to drop / deep / profound / heavy / addicted to

mò(méi) - drowned / to sink / submerge / to end / finished / completed / to die / dead / disappear / go into oblivion / to inundate / overflow / rise beyond / exhausted / eliminated / take property away from another / confiscate / have not / not / none / nothing / no / not yet / negative / (negative prefix for verbs)

*Note: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

鐘楼/樓

December 3, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shourou

Japanese Meaning: belfry / bell tower

Parts:

shou(kane, gane) - bell (often large, hanging type) / chimes / gong

rou - high building / lookout / tower / watchtower / turret / belvedere

Chinese Pinyin: zhōnglóu

Chinese Meaning: bell tower / clock tower / campanile

Parts:

zhōng - clock / o'clock / time as measured in hours and minutes / bell (large, hanging type)

lóu - house with more than one story / storied building / floor (level)

*Note 1: a variant of the first character is 鍾

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

盟邦

December 4, 2012

Japanese Romaji: meihou

Japanese Meaning: ally / allied powers

Parts:

mei - alliance / oath

hou(kuni, pou) - country / (the) state / hometown / home country / region / Japan

Chinese Pinyin: méngbāng

Chinese Meaning: ally / allied country

Parts:

méng - oath / pledge / swear / vow / covenant / alliance / union / to ally / league

bāng - a state / country / nation

副虹

December 4, 2012

Japanese Romaji: fukuniji

Japanese Meaning: secondary rainbow

Parts:

fuku(so) - a copy / a duplicate / assistant / associate / vice- / sub- / deputy / substitute / auxiliary /
supplementary / additional / collateral

niji(kou) - rainbow

Chinese Pinyin: fùhóng

Chinese Meaning: secondary rainbow

Parts:

fù - assist / supplement / assistant / deputy / vice- / secondary / auxiliary / subsidiary / supplement / set
/ counter for pairs, sets of things, and facial expressions

hóng - rainbow

睥睨

December 5, 2012

Japanese Romaji: heigei

Japanese Meaning: glaring at / looking contemptuously at / lording over

Parts:

hei - glare at

gei(nira) - glaring at / scowl at / authority / power

Chinese Pinyin: bì nì

Chinese Meaning: to look disdainfully out of the corner of one's eye / look askance / overweening

Parts:

bì - glare at / look askance

nì - to look askance at / glare at / squint

姓氏

December 5, 2012

Japanese Romaji: seishi

Japanese Meaning: surname / family name / last name

Parts:

sei(kabane, shou, jou) - surname / family name / hereditary title

shi(uji, ji) - clan / family name / surname / lineage / birth / (honorific suffix) Mr. / (honorific) he / him / (honorific) counter for people

Chinese Pinyin: xìngshì

Chinese Meaning: surname / family name / last name

Parts:

xìng - family name / surname / name / clan / people / family

shì(zhī) - clan name / surname / maiden name / née / family / clan / mister / title of a government position in former times

*Note: the picture shows the 30 most common surnames each from Japan and China that I found on Wikipedia today.

潔癖

December 6, 2012

Japanese Romaji: keppeki

Japanese Meaning: fastidiousness / love of cleanliness

Parts:

ketsu(isagiyo) - clean / pure / undefiled / righteous / gallant

peki(kuse, guse, heki) - fault / (bad) habit / kink / mannerism / trait / vice / peculiarity / idiosyncrasy / crease / wrinkle / curl

Chinese Pinyin: jiépǐ

Chinese Meaning: obsessive-compulsive tendency towards cleanliness / mysophobia / morbid fear of getting dirty

Parts:

jié - clean / pure / purify / spotless / stainless / immaculate

pǐ(pì) - habit / hobby / addiction / craving / habitual inclination / weakness for / indigestion / chronic swelling of the spleen

*Note 1: the Chinese term seems to have a more negative nuance of being excessively clean. The Japanese term often includes the meaning of strongly adhering to good morals.

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 潔

愚弄

December 6, 2012

Japanese Romaji: gurou

Japanese Meaning: mockery / derision / ridicule

Parts:

gu(oro) - absurdity / folly / foolish / foolishness / silliness / stupid / stupidity / (Archaism) (Humble
(kenjougo) language) I, me

rou(iji, masagu, moteaso) - play with / tamper / trifle with

Chinese Pinyin: yúnòng

Chinese Meaning: to mock / to ridicule / derision / to deceive / hoodwink / to make a fool out of / to fool / to dupe

Parts:

yú - to be stupid / foolish / silly / doltish / to cheat / to deceive / to fool / to dupe / (humble) I, me, my
nòng(lòng) - to do / to manage / to handle / get / to play with / to fool with / fiddle with / to mess with /
to fix / to toy with / make fun of / to mock / piece of music / ditty / music, play, or dance performance
characteristics / lane / alley / alleyway

*Note: 3 variants of the second character are 弄 揄 衡

幾何

December 7, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kika

Japanese Meaning: geometry

Parts:

ki(iku) - how far / how long / how many / how much / many / some / several

ka(nani, nan) - what? / huh? / how many (some counter)

*Note: the second character also optionally appears in several question words with readings that don't usually involve kanji (e.g. ikaga, ikan, itsu, dou, doko, dochira, dokka, dotchi, donata, doitsu, dono, dore, naze)

Chinese Pinyin: jǐhé

Chinese Meaning: geometry / how much

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 何 (for the meaning of "how (much)")

Parts:

jǐ(jī) - how much / how many / several / a few / some / almost / nearly / subtle

hé - what / how / why / where / when / which / carry

看守

December 7, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kanshu

Japanese Meaning: jailer / gaoler / (prison) guard / warden / keeper

Parts:

kan(mi) - see / watch over

shu(kami, mamo, mo, mori, su, ju) - defend / guard / protect / obey / protecting / keeping / keeper / babysitting / babysitter / nursemaid / director (of the provincial governors under the ritsuryo system)

Chinese Pinyin: kānshǒu

Chinese Meaning: to guard / to watch over / stand guard / to detain / jailer / gaoler / watchman

Parts:

kān(kàn) - to see / to look at / observe / to read / to watch / to consider / to think / to regard as / to view as / to treat as / to judge / scrutinize / examine / (after repeated verb) to give it a try / depending on (how you're judging) / to visit / to call on / to treat (an illness) / to present (tea, wine, etc.) / watch out! (for danger) / to look after / to take care of / tend to / keep an eye on / to watch / to guard

shǒu - to guard / to defend / protect / conserve / to keep watch / keep (a secret, etc.) / wait / to abide by the law / stick to / maintain / to observe (rules or ritual) / nearby / adjoining

*Note 1: the Chinese term is not restricted to just watching over prisoners and can include any type of guarding in a protective sense (e.g. defending a building, watching over a baby, etc.)

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 埒

堆肥

December 8, 2012

Japanese Romaji: taihi

Japanese Meaning: compost

Parts:

tai(uzutaka, tsui) - piled high

hi(ko, koe, goe, futo) - fertile / fertilizer / fertiliser / manure / dung / night soil / pamper / get fat

Chinese Pinyin: duīféi

Chinese Meaning: compost

Parts:

duī - to pile up / to heap up / stack up / a mass / pile / heap / stack / mould / crowd / large amount / counter for a mass, heap, pile, etc.

féi - fat / plump / obese / portly / corpulent / fat (of meat) / sufficiency / affluence / plenty / fertile / to fertilize / fertilizer / manure / loose-fitting / large / baggy / to become rich by illegal means

*Note: 2 variants of the first character are 培 and 埤

憤慨

December 8, 2012

Japanese Romaji: fungai

Japanese Meaning: indignation / resentment

Parts:

fun(ikidoo, pun) - anger / aroused / be indignant / resent

gai - be sad / lament / rue / sigh

Chinese Pinyin: fènkǎi

Chinese Meaning: to resent / resentment

Parts:

fèn - indignant / indignation / anger / angry / resentment / resentful / hate

kǎi - sigh / regret / sad / indignant / impassioned / generous / magnanimous

啓蒙/啟矇

December 9, 2012

Japanese Romaji: keimou

Japanese Meaning: enlightenment / instruction / sharing knowledge

Parts:

kei(hira) - disclose / open / say

mou(koumu) - be subjected to / get / receive / sustain / darkness / ignorance / Mongolia

Chinese Pinyin: qǐméng

Chinese Meaning: enlightened / the Enlightenment / to instruct the young / to initiate / to awake somebody from ignorance / to free somebody from prejudice or superstition / primer / Western learning from the late Qing dynasty

Parts:

qǐ - to open / to start / begin / to initiate / commence / to enlighten / explain / inspire / to awaken / to state / to inform / declare

méng[1](mēng, měng) - to cover / to wrap / overshadow / ignorant / illiterate / uncultured / to suffer (misfortune) / bear with / subjected to / to receive (a favour) / obtain / meet with / to cheat / deceive / dupe / hoodwink / (knocked) unconscious / dazed / stunned / Mongolia

méng[2](mēng) - blind / dim sighted / stupid / ignorant / obstinate / to deceive / to cheat / to hoodwink / to make a wild guess

*Note 1: both Chinese versions of the second character can be used in Chinese for this word. The Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the more complicated Chinese version.

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 瞽 2 more variants of the second character are 矇矇 The Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified Chinese version of 矇

魯鈍

December 9, 2012

Japanese Romaji: rodon

Japanese Meaning: imbecility / stupidity

Parts:

ro - foolish / Russia

don(nama, namakura, nibu, noro) - blunt / dull / foolish / slow

Chinese Pinyin: lǔdùn

Chinese Meaning: stupid / slow on the uptake / dull-witted / obtuse

Parts:

lǔ - crass / stupid / foolish / dull-witted / rude / rough / rash / vulgar / imprudent

dùn - blunt / not pointed or sharp / obtuse / flat / dull / stupid / dull-witted

鍛錬/煉

December 10, 2012

Japanese Romaji: tanren

Japanese Meaning: tempering / forging / hardening / disciplining / training

Parts:

tan(kita, ka) - discipline / to forge / to train

ren(ne) - drill / polish / refine / tempering / to train

Chinese Pinyin: duànliàn

Chinese Meaning: to engage in physical exercise / to work out / to toughen / to temper / forge (metal)

Parts:

duàn - forge metal / wrought / to beat / to hammer / smelt / to discipline / to temper / refine / exercise / toughen

liàn - to refine / to smelt / distill / condense / to temper / to test / to train (one's will, etc.) / polish the wording / weigh one's word

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word can alternatively be written as 鍛練

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 煅 A variant of the second character is 鍊

燃烧/焼

December 10, 2012

Japanese Romaji: nenshou

Japanese Meaning: burning / combustion

Parts:

nen(mo) - blaze / burn / glow

shou(ya, yaki) - bake / burning / heating / cooking (especially frying or stir-frying) / -ware

Chinese Pinyin: ránshāo

Chinese Meaning: to combust / to ignite / to burn / combustion / flaming

Parts:

rán - to burn / to ignite / to light (on fire) / (figurative) to spark off (hopes) / to raise (hopes) / to start (debate)

shāo - to burn / to cook / to stew / to bake / to heat / to boil / to roast / fever / have a temperature

登録/録

December 11, 2012

Japanese Romaji: touroku

Japanese Meaning: registration / register / entry / record / accession / enrollment

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 報名 (bàomíng), 訂閱 (dìngyuè), 註冊 (zhùcè)

Parts:

tou(nobo, to) - ascend / climb up

roku(to) - record / transcript

Chinese Pinyin: dēnglù

Chinese Meaning: to register / to log in

Chinese to Japanese Translation: ログイン (roguin) for the meaning of “log in”

Parts:

dēng - to scale (a height) / to climb / to ascend / to mount / to rise / to board / reach / to publish / to record / to enter (e.g. into a register) / carry / to press down with the foot / to step on / to tread on / ripen (of grain) / to mature

lù - diary / record / to hit / to copy / write down

*Note: a variant of the first character is 燈

瓦礫

December 11, 2012

Japanese Romaji: gareki

Japanese Meaning: rubble / tiles and stones

Parts:

ga(kawara, gawara, guramu) - (roof) tile / gram

reki(tsubute) - small stones / stone thrown at somebody / throwing stones

Chinese Pinyin: wǎlì

Chinese Meaning: rubble / debris

Parts:

wǎ - (roof) tile / earthenware / pottery / Watt (unit of power)

lì - gravel / small stone / pebbles / shingle / potsherds

拾貳/貳

December 12, 2012

Japanese Romaji: juuni

Japanese Meaning: twelve (in legal documents)

Parts:

juu(hiro, biro, shuu) - find / gather / pick up / go on foot / ten (in legal documents)

ni(futa) - second / II / two (in legal documents)

Chinese Pinyin: shí'èr

Chinese Meaning: twelve (in legal documents)

Parts:

shí(shè) - pick up (from the ground) / collect / collate / arrange / tidy up / put in order / repair / ten (in legal documents) / to ascend in light steps

èr - two (in legal documents) / to betray

*Note 1: since the kanji for numerals are very simple to write, alternate kanji are used in legal and financial documents to prevent forgeries. The formal Chinese numbers are called 大寫 (dàxiě) and in order from one to ten (traditional) are: 壹貳參肆伍陸柒捌玖拾. The formal forms of 100 and 1000 are 佰 and 仟 respectively. The formal Japanese numbers are called 大字 (daiji) and used to be identical to the Chinese numbers, but are now simplified to: 壱貳參四五六七八九拾百千.

*Note 2: 2 more variants of the second character are 貳式

罹患

December 12, 2012

Japanese Romaji: rikan

Japanese Meaning: contracting a disease

Parts:

ri(kaka) - catch / get

kan(wazura) - afflicted / be ill / suffer from / disease

Chinese Pinyin: líhuàn

Chinese Meaning: to suffer (from an illness) / to fall ill

Parts:

lí - happen to / meet with (disaster, misfortune, etc.) / be stricken by / undergo / sorrow / grief / incur / suffer from

huàn - to suffer (from illness) / to contract (a disease) / get (sick) / suffering / illness / adversity / misfortune / trouble / peril / disaster / danger / worry / be swayed by

拔擢/拔

December 13, 2012

Japanese Romaji: batteki

Japanese Meaning: selection (e.g. for a job or other important position) / choose / selection of someone of exceptional abilities

Parts:

batsu(nu) - extract / omit / pilfer / pull out / remove / slip out / quote

teki - excel in / surpass / select / pull out

Chinese Pinyin: bázhúo

Chinese Meaning: to promote / to raise / select the best people for promotion

Parts:

bá - to pull up / to pull out / uproot / to draw out (by suction) / to select / to pick / choose / to stand out (above level) / outstanding / to surpass / to seize / capture / root out / suck out / wavering

zhúo - to pull out / pull up / draw out / draw up / select / extract / to select / to promote / (Cantonese) (used for transliterating uncommon syllables)

*Note: another variant of the first character is 拔

堡塁/壘

December 13, 2012

Japanese Romaji: hourui

Japanese Meaning: fort / stronghold

Parts:

hou(ho) - fort

rei(toride) - base (baseball) / bases / fort / fortress / rampart / walls

Chinese Pinyin: bǎolěi

Chinese Meaning: fort

Parts:

bǎo(pù) - castle / stronghold / fort / fortress / position of defense / earthwork / walled village / town / village / (used in place names)

lěi - rampart / military wall / fort / build by piling up bricks, stones, etc. / base (baseball) / softball

*Note: another variant of the second character is 壘

綿羊

December 14, 2012

Japanese Romaji: men'you

Japanese Meaning: sheep

Parts:

men(wata) - cotton / cotton plant / batting / wadding / padding

you(hitsuji) - sheep

Chinese Pinyin: miányáng

Chinese Meaning: sheep

Parts:

mián - silk floss / cotton wad / wool / downy / soft / weak / continuous / extend continuously / mild / meek / mild-mannered

yáng - sheep / goat / lamb / antelope

*Note: a variant of the first character is 羴

宗旨

December 14, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shuushi

Japanese Meaning: religion / (religious) sect / tenets (doctrines) of a religious sect / denomination

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 宗教 (zōngjiào)

Parts:

shuu(mune, sou) - religion / sect / denomination / essence / main point / center / centre / pillar / principle / origin

shi(uma, mune, ji) - center / centre / pillar / principle / purport / gist / drift / meaning / clever / expert / delicious / to relish / show a liking for / will

Chinese Pinyin: zōngzhǐ

Chinese Meaning: objective / aim / goal / purpose

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 目的 (mokuteki)

Parts:

zōng - school (of thought) / sect / faction / purpose / principal aim / model / great master / ancestor / ancestry / lineage / clan / to take as one's model (in academic or artistic work) / counter for batches, items, matters, cases (medical or legal) / reservoirs

zhǐ - purport / aim / purpose / objective / excellent / imperial decree / order / tasty / delicious

滑稽

December 15, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kokkei

Japanese Meaning: funny / humorous / comical / laughable / ridiculous / joking

Parts:

kotsu(sube, name, nume, katsu) - slide / slip / slippery / flunk

kei(gei) - consider / think

Chinese Pinyin: huájī / gǔjī

Chinese Meaning: comical / funny / amusing

Parts:

huá(gǔ) - to slip / to slide / glide / smooth / polished / slippery / cunning / dishonest / insincere

jī(qǐ) - to inspect / examine / investigate / to check / delay / detain / procrastinate / recriminate / argue / dispute / kowtow / bow to the ground

舷窓/窗

December 15, 2012

Japanese Romaji: gensou

Japanese Meaning: porthole

Parts:

gen(funaberi) - gunwale / side of a boat

sou(mado) - window / pane / an opening in a wall or roof

Chinese Pinyin: xiánchuāng

Chinese Meaning: porthole

Parts:

xián - gunwale / bulwarks / side of a ship or aircraft

chuāng - window / shutter / skylight / a place where one studies

*Note: 5 more variants of the second character are 窓 牕 窻 囪 囪. 囪 and 囪 are also variants of one separate character in Chinese (cōng).

嫉妬/妒

December 16, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shitto

Japanese Meaning: jealousy / envy

Parts:

shitsu(sone, neta) - envy / jealous

to(sone, neta, ya) - envy / jealous

Chinese Pinyin: jí dù

Chinese Meaning: to be jealous / to envy / to hate

Parts:

jí - envy / jealousy / hate / detest / indignantly resent

dù - envy / jealous

辛辣

December 16, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shinratsu

Japanese Meaning: acrimonious / bitter (criticism) / sharp (replies) / biting (sarcasm) / harsh (words) / incisive (comments)

Parts:

shin(kanoto, kara, gara, karo, tsura, dzura) - spicy / hot / acrid / bitter / eighth sign of the Chinese calendar / eighth in rank

ratsu(kara) - cruel / harsh / severe / pungent / spicy

Chinese Pinyin: xīnlà

Chinese Meaning: pungent / spicy hot (taste) / bitter / peppery / acrid / biting (criticism)

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 辛味 (karami) when referring to food

Parts:

xīn - hot (spicy) flavor / pungent / piquant / fiery / acrid / bitter / hard / laborious / toilsome / suffering / miserable / sad / eighth sign of the Chinese calendar / eighth in order / octa-

là - hot (spicy) / pungent / peppery / piquant / bite (smell, taste) / burn / cruel

*Note 1: the Japanese term only refers to speech that may be harsh (e.g. criticism) whereas the Chinese term includes the meaning of “spiciness” in food.

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 𪛗

黙祷/黙禱

December 17, 2012

Japanese Romaji: mokutou

Japanese Meaning: silent prayer / moment of silence

Parts:

moku(dama) - silence / become silent / stop speaking / leave as is

tou(ino) - pray

Chinese Pinyin: mòdǎo

Chinese Meaning: silent prayer / pray in silence / moment of silence

Parts:

mò - silent / quiet / still / tacit / dark / to write from memory

dǎo - prayer / pray / supplication / entreat / beg (used in correspondence) / plead

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: another variant of the first character is 穆

灰燼

December 17, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kaijin

Japanese Meaning: ash / embers / complete destruction

Parts:

kai(hai, bai) - ashes / ash / cremate / puckery juice

jin - embers

Chinese Pinyin: huījìn

Chinese Meaning: ashes

Parts:

huī - ash / ashes / dust / lime / mortar / gray (color) / dirty / discouraged / dejected / disheartened /
break into tiny pieces or particles

jìn - ashes / embers / cinders / remnants

賄賂

December 18, 2012

Japanese Romaji: wairo

Japanese Meaning: bribe / bribery / graft / sweetener / douceur

Parts:

wai(makana) - bribe / finance / supply / (give) board

ro(mainai) - bribe

Chinese Pinyin: huìlù

Chinese Meaning: bribe / bribery

Parts:

huì - bribe / bribery / riches / wealth / property / valuables

lù - bribe / bribery / buy off / give present / send a gift of money or goods

恍惚

December 18, 2012

Japanese Romaji: koukotsu

Japanese Meaning: trance / ecstasy

Parts:

kou(tobo) - joke / senile / stupid / unclear

kotsu(to, tobo, ho, bo, hou, bou, noro) - fall in love with / admire / grow senile

Chinese Pinyin: huǎnghū

Chinese Meaning: in a trance / ecstasy / absent-minded / unconscious / distracted / dazzled / vaguely / dimly / seemingly

Chinese to Japanese Translation: ぼんやり (bon'yari) for the meanings of "absent-mindedly", "dimly", "vaguely"

Parts:

huǎng - seemingly / faintly / as if / absent-minded / not clear / unconscious / disappointed / flurried / suddenly / in an instant / indistinct

hū - absent-minded / entranced / confused / indistinct

*Note 1: a Chinese variant of this word is 恍惚

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 恍

卑怯/卑

December 19, 2012

Japanese Romaji: hikyou

Japanese Meaning: cowardice / meanness / unfairness

Parts:

hi(iya, bi, pi) - lowly / vile / vulgar / base

kyou(obi, hiru) - cowardice / flinch / wince / hesitate / waver

Chinese Pinyin: bēiqiè

Chinese Meaning: mean and cowardly / abject

Parts:

bēi - vulgar / vile / inferior / depraved / debased / despise / low / base / humble / modest expression
referring to oneself

qiè - timid / cowardly / nervous / afraid / lacking in courage / rustic / uncouth / in poor taste

許嫁

December 19, 2012

Japanese Romaji: iinazuke

Japanese Meaning: fiancé / fiancée

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 未婚夫 (wèihūnfū) for fiancé, 未婚妻 (wèihūnqī) for fiancée

Parts:

kyo(moto, yuru, baku) - approve / permit / under (influence, guidance, etc.)

ka(totsu, yome) - bride / wife / (one's) daughter-in-law / marry into

*Note 1: this word doesn't normally use the common Japanese readings for its kanji

Chinese Pinyin: xǔjià

Chinese Meaning: allowed to marry / to betroth a daughter

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 結婚を許す (kekkon o yurusu)

Parts:

xǔ - to allow / to permit / to promise / approve / commend / to praise / betroth / promise to marry / expect / perhaps / somewhat / maybe / about / a little more than (said of a person's age) / so / this / a final particle

jià - (of a woman) to marry / to marry off a daughter / to shift (blame, etc.)

*Note 2: this word can also be written as 許婚 in either language (but the Chinese reading changes to xǔhūn). The Chinese term more specifically refers to the act of allowing the female to get married.

*Note 3: a variant of the first character is 無

漏斗

December 20, 2012

Japanese Romaji: jougo / routo

Japanese Meaning: funnel

Parts:

jou(rou, mo) - escape / leak / time

go(to, shi, masu) - sake dipper / Big Dipper / 10 sho (former unit of volume) / measuring container / measure / box (seating at a theatre, etc.) / square on a grid / cell of a grid / square bearing block (at the top of a pillar)

*Note 1: "jougo" is a reading for these two kanji for this word only

Chinese Pinyin: lǒudǒu

Chinese Meaning: funnel

Parts:

lǒu - to leak / to drip / loophole / flaw / to divulge / give away / disclose / funnel / to leave out by mistake / miss out / omit / hourglass / water clock / time

dǒu - cup or dipper-shaped object / Big Dipper / liquid measure / peck (unit of dry measure for grain) / ancient wine vessel

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 漏 The second character is also the simplified Chinese version of 鬥 and 鬬, and is a variant of 陡

浚渫

December 20, 2012

Japanese Romaji: shunsetsu

Japanese Meaning: dredging

Parts:

shun(sara, zara) - to clean / drag / dredge

setsu - cleaning out / dredging

Chinese Pinyin: jùnxiè

Chinese Meaning: to dredge

Parts:

jùn - to deepen (e.g. a ditch) / dredge (a canal) / to extract / to manage

xiè - to get rid of / to remove / to eliminate / to discharge / to dredge / beating of ocean / surging of water

*Note: a variant of the second character is 濬

鳳凰

December 21, 2012

Japanese Romaji: houou

Japanese Meaning: Chinese firebird / Chinese phoenix / fenghuang

Parts:

hou(ootori, pou) - male phoenix / feng (male Chinese firebird) / large bird / peng (in Chinese mythology, a giant bird said to transform from a fish) / fenghuang (Chinese phoenix)

ou - female phoenix / huang (female Chinese firebird)

Chinese Pinyin: fènghuáng

Chinese Meaning: (Chinese) phoenix / fenghuang

Parts:

fèng - male phoenix / male Chinese firebird / symbol of joy

huáng - female phoenix / female Chinese firebird

*Note 1: not to be confused with the phoenix in Western mythology, which is known as the 不死鳥 (fushichou), フェニックス (fenikkusu), or 火の鳥 (hi no tori) in Japanese. In Chinese, 鳳凰 can still be used along with 不死鳥 (bùsǐniǎo), 長生鳥 (chángshēngniǎo), or 菲尼克斯 (fēiníkèsī).

*Note 2: also not to be confused with the Vermillion Bird in Asian mythology which is known as 朱雀 ("suzaku" in Japanese, "zhūquè" in Chinese).

蠟燭/蠟

December 21, 2012

Japanese Romaji: rousoku

Japanese Meaning: candle

Parts:

rou - wax

soku(shoku) - candlepower / light / lamp

Chinese Pinyin: làzhú

Chinese Meaning: candle

Parts:

là - wax / candle / waxy / glazed

zhú - candle / taper / (literary) to illuminate / to shine / light up / watt

葡萄

December 22, 2012

Japanese Romaji: budou

Japanese Meaning: grape / grapes

Parts:

bu(po) - wild grape / Portugal (abbreviation)

dou - grape vine / wild grape

Chinese Pinyin: pútáo / pútáo

Chinese Meaning: grape / grapes

Parts:

pú - grapes / grape / vine / Portugal (abbreviation)

tao(táo) - grapes / grape

雛菊

December 22, 2012

Japanese Romaji: hinagiku

Japanese Meaning: daisy (*Bellis perennis*)

Parts:

hina(bina, hiyoko, suu) - young bird / chick / duckling / squab / (Hina) doll / juvenile / green / greenhorn
/ wet behind the ears / Hina Matsuri (abbreviation)

giku(kiku) - chrysanthemum

Chinese Pinyin: chújú

Chinese Meaning: daisy (*Bellis perennis*)

Parts:

chú - chick / young bird / fledgling / child / infant / toddler / young / embryonic / premature

jú - chrysanthemum

*Note: a variant of the first character is 雛鳥

蜘蛛

December 23, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kumo

Japanese Meaning: spider

Parts:

ku(gu) - spider

mo(shu, chu) - spider

Chinese Pinyin: zhīzhū

Chinese Meaning: spider

Parts:

zhī - spider

zhū - spider

*Note: 2 variants of the first character are 鼯 and 鼯 A variant of the second character is 鼯 Thus,
two variants of this word are 鼯鼯 and 鼯鼯

麻痺

December 23, 2012

Japanese Romaji: mahi

Japanese Meaning: paralysis / palsy / numbness / stupor

Parts:

ma(asa, maa, so) - flax / hemp (fiber) / linen / jute / cannabis / hemp (plant)

hi(shibi) - paralysed / become numb / palsy

Chinese Pinyin: mábì

Chinese Meaning: paralysis / palsy / numbness / to benumb / indifferent

Parts:

má - generic name for hemp, flax, jute, etc. / hemp (fiber) / jute / flax fiber for textiles / sesame / (of materials) rough or coarse / pocked / pock / pockmark / pitted / spotted (bird, etc.) / to have pins and needles / tingling / to feel numb / spicy hot

bì - paralysis / numbness

*Note: 2 variants of the first character are 麻 and 癱 A variant of this word is 痲痺

販売/賣

December 24, 2012

Japanese Romaji: hanbai

Japanese Meaning: sales / selling / marketing

Parts:

han(pan) - marketing / sell / trade

bai(u, uri) - sell

Chinese Pinyin: fànmài

Chinese Meaning: to sell / to peddle / to traffic

Parts:

fàn - to deal in / to buy and sell / to trade in / to traffic / to retail / to peddle / peddler / street merchant / trader / vendor / dealer / monger / hawker

mài - to sell / to betray / harm another in order to benefit oneself / to spare no effort / to show off / flaunt

銀翼

December 24, 2012

Japanese Romaji: gin'yoku

Japanese Meaning: silvery wings

Parts:

gin(shirogane) - silver / silver coin / silver paint / silver thread / silver color / silver general (shogi)

yoku(tsubasa) - wing / plane / flank / (archaism) counter for birds or bird wings

Chinese Pinyin: yínyì

Chinese Meaning: silvery wings

Parts:

yín - silver / argentum (Ag) / silver-colored / silvery / relating to money or currency / cash / coin / money / wealth

yì - wings (of birds, buildings, etc.) / flank / fins on fish / shelter / cover / shield / conceal / to assist / to aid / to help / area surrounding the bullseye of a target

*Note: a Chinese variant of the second character is 翼 which is also a separate character

完成

December 24, 2012

Japanese Romaji: kansei

Japanese Meaning: complete / completion / perfection / accomplishment

Parts:

kan - completion / end / perfect / The End / Finis

sei(na, nari, jou) - become / turn into / grow / elapse / reach / get

Chinese Pinyin: wánchéng

Chinese Meaning: to complete / to accomplish / to fulfill / to finish / to succeed

Parts:

wán - to finish / to complete / bring to a conclusion / to be over / end / to settle / whole / entire / run out / use up

chéng - to succeed / to finish / to complete / to accomplish / fixed / settled / achieve / to become / to turn into / acceptable / to be all right / able / capable / OK! / one tenth

*Note: a variant of the second character is 晟

歳旦/歳

January 1, 2013

Japanese Romaji: saitan

Japanese Meaning: New Year's Day

Parts:

sai(toshi, tose, sei, zai) - age / (suffix) -years-old / many years / occasion / opportunity / year-end / past one's prime / old age

tan(dan) - dawn / daybreak / morning

*Note 1: "20-years-old" is written and pronounced as 二十歳 (hatachi) in Japanese

Chinese Pinyin: suidàn

Chinese Meaning: New Year's Day

Parts:

suì - age / year / harvest / counter for years (of age) / year (of crop harvests)

dàn - dawn / morning / daybreak / day / female role in a Chinese opera

*Note 2: 2 more variants of the first character are 𪛗 and 𪛘

摇篮/搖

January 2, 2013

Japanese Romaji: youran

Japanese Meaning: cradle

Parts:

you(yu) - shake / sway / to swing / to rock / tremble / vibrate

ran(kago) - basket

Chinese Pinyin: yáolán

Chinese Meaning: cradle / place of origin

Parts:

yáo - to shake / to rock / to row (a boat, etc.) / to swing / wag / to wave / to scull / sway (of one's confidence, determination, etc.) / wobble / agitate / incite / annoy

lán - basket / goal

*Note: this term includes the literal cradle (for babies, etc.) and a figurative cradle (e.g. "cradle of civilization")

曖昧

January 3, 2013

Japanese Romaji: aimai

Japanese Meaning: vague / ambiguous / unclear / uncertain

Parts:

ai - dark / not clear

mai - dark / foolish

Chinese Pinyin: àimèi

Chinese Meaning: vague / ambiguous / equivocal / obscure / dubious / questionable / suspect

Parts:

ài - (of daylight) dim / obscure / ambiguous / vague / indistinct / clandestine / dubious

mèi - conceal / ignore / go against / dark / darken / dim / obscure / ignorant of / unaware of / hazy

*Note: a variant of the first character is 曖

旗幟

January 4, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kishi

Japanese Meaning: flag / ensign / pennant / banner / sign / emblem / one's attitude / one's position / one's standpoint

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 立場 (lìchǎng) for the definition of "standpoint"

Parts:

ki(hata, bata) - flag / banner / national flag / standard

shi(nobori) - banner / flag / streamer

Chinese Pinyin: qízhì

Chinese Meaning: flag / ensign / pennant / banner / streamer

Parts:

qí - banner / flag / streamer / pennant / standard / ensign

zhì - flag / pennant / sign / mark / fasten

*Note: a variant of the first character is 旂 A variant of the second character is 幟

層雲/層

January 5, 2013

Japanese Romaji: sou'un

Japanese Meaning: stratus (cloud)

Parts:

sou - story (of a building) / storey / floor / layer / seam / bed / stream / social class / stratum / sheaf (math)

un(kumo, gumo) - cloud

*Note: 東雲 (daybreak, dawn) is read as "shinonome". 雲雀 (skylark) is read as "hibari". 雲脂 (dandruff) is read as "fuke". 出雲 is the name of a place called "Izumo".

Chinese Pinyin: céngyún

Chinese Meaning: stratus (cloud)

Parts:

céng - layer / stratum / laminated / floor (of a building) / storey / story / point / aspect / matter / repeated / sheaf (math) / counter for layers

yún - cloud / a large number of / a cloud of

冠詞

January 6, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kanshi

Japanese Meaning: (grammatical) article

Parts:

kan(ka, kanmuri, kamu) - crown / diadem / coronet / cap (especially a traditional cap worn with sokutai or ikan clothing) / best / peerless / first / top kanji radical

shi(kotoba, ji) - part of speech / words / writing / lyrics / form of Chinese poetry

*Note 1: 台詞 (one's words) is read as "serifu"

Chinese Pinyin: guàncí

Chinese Meaning: (grammatical) article

Parts:

guàn(guān) - hat / crown / crest / comb / cap / headgear / hat-shaped thing (like chaplet, cockscomb, etc.) / corona / to put on a hat or cap / to be first / rank first / champion / first place / best / crown with / precede by / to dub

cí - words / term / statement / phrase / expression / speech / component / part of speech / classical Chinese poem / a form of poetry characterized by lines of irregular length / lyrics of songs, ballads or operas

*Note 2: the Japanese and Chinese languages do not have any articles. Therefore, this term technically only applies to foreign languages (English, French, German, Italian, etc.)

*Note 3: a Chinese variant of the second character is 辭 Another variant is 詞

跋涉/涉

January 7, 2013

Japanese Romaji: basshou

Japanese Meaning: wandering / roaming / to trek / to travel over land and water

Parts:

batsu - epilogue / postscript / envoi

shou(wata) - ferry / ford / port

Chinese Pinyin: báshè

Chinese Meaning: to trudge / to trek / to travel over land and water / to wade

Parts:

bá - epilogue / postscript / colophon / go by foot / to trek across mountains

shè - to wade across / ford stream / to cross / to be involved / to concern / implicate / relate to / to experience / to undergo / go through / to enter (classical)

賠償

January 8, 2013

Japanese Romaji: baishou

Japanese Meaning: reparations / indemnity / compensation

Parts:

bai - compensation / indemnify

shou(tsuguna) - make up for / recompense / redeem / reparation

Chinese Pinyin: péicháng

Chinese Meaning: reparations / compensation / indemnity / make amends for

Parts:

péi - to compensate for loss / to indemnify / pay for / apologize / ask for forgiveness / to suffer a financial loss / lose money in business

cháng - to repay / refund / to compensate for / to recompense / restitution / payment / pay / reward / to fulfill (hopes, etc.) / satisfy (a wish)

*Note: an old variant of the first character is 陪

咀嚼

January 9, 2013

Japanese Romaji: soshaku

Japanese Meaning: chewing / mastication / breaking into bite-sized pieces / digestion / assimilation / understanding / appreciation / taking in / to dwell on (a word, passage, etc.) in order to fully appreciate or understand its meaning

Parts:

so - bite / eat

shaku(ka) - bite

Chinese Pinyin: jǔjué

Chinese Meaning: to chew / to masticate / to think over / to mull over / to ruminate / to dwell on (a word, passage, etc.) in order to fully appreciate or understand its meaning / to chew the cud (idiom)

Parts:

jǔ(zuǐ) - to chew / to masticate / to suck / mouth / beak

jué(jiǎo) - to chew / masticate / munch / crunch / prattle / be glib / ruminate / chew the cud (idiom)

壹億/壹

January 10, 2013

Japanese Romaji: ichioku

Japanese Meaning: one hundred million / 100,000,000

Parts:

ichi - one (in legal documents) / 1

oku - hundred million / 100,000,000

Chinese Pinyin: yīyì

Chinese Meaning: one hundred million / 100,000,000

Parts:

yī - one (in legal documents)

yì - hundred million / 100,000,000 / many

*Note 1: the first character is the formal way to write “1” in legal documents in Japanese and Chinese

*Note 2: another variant of the first character is 弌

抑揚

January 11, 2013

Japanese Romaji: yokuyou

Japanese Meaning: intonation / accent / modulation / inflection

Parts:

yoku(osa) - press / push / repress / to seal / shove / well / now / do in spite of / in the first place

you(a) - hoist / fry in deep fat / deep-fry

Chinese Pinyin: yìyáng

Chinese Meaning: modulation (rising and falling pitch) / intonation / a cadence / the flow of sentiments in a writing / to praise and to censure / to rise and fall (of a body floating in water, of one's career, etc.)

Parts:

yì - press down / repress / to restrain / to restrict / to curb / to hinder / to keep down / or / but /

however / besides / moreover / what is more

yáng - to raise / to hoist / lift up / put up / to scatter / spread / the action of tossing or winnowing / scattering (in the wind) / to flutter / to propagate / praise / make known / exalt

*Note 1: the Japanese term mostly only applies to the “ups” and “downs” in speech (e.g. intonation in voice) whereas the Chinese term can apply to other things as listed above.

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 颺

至宝/寶

January 12, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shihou

Japanese Meaning: most valuable asset / the greatest treasure / pride of ... / most important person

Parts:

shi(ita, ji) - arrive / attain / reach / result in / climax / proceed / to...

hou(takara, dakara, bou, pou) - treasure / valuables / wealth

Chinese Pinyin: zhìbǎo

Chinese Meaning: most valuable treasure / most precious asset

Parts:

zhì - to arrive / reach / until / to / extremely / very / the most / to indicate the superlative degree

bǎo - jewel / gem / treasure / precious / valuable / rare / rarity

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: 2 more variants of the second character are 寶 and 窖

咽喉

January 13, 2013

Japanese Romaji: inkou

Japanese Meaning: throat

Parts:

in(nodo, muse, etsu) - throat / voice / choked / smothered / stuffy

kou(nodo) - throat / voice / counter for fish

Chinese Pinyin: yānhóu

Chinese Meaning: throat

Parts:

yān(yàn, yè) - narrow pass / throat / pharynx / larynx / to swallow / gulp down / to choke (in crying) / weep or speak in a choked voice

hóu - throat / gullet / larynx / guttural

*Note: a variant of the first character is 咽 The second character is also the simplified Chinese version of 喉

伯爵

January 14, 2013

Japanese Romaji: hakushaku

Japanese Meaning: an earl / a count

Parts:

haku(o, paku) - chief (official) / a count / an earl / eldest uncle / eldest brother / Brazil

shaku - baron / court rank / peerage / jue (ancient 3-legged Chinese wine pitcher, usually made of bronze)

Chinese Pinyin: bójué

Chinese Meaning: an earl / a count / a rank of the nobility / earldom or countship (old)

Parts:

bó(bǎi ,bà) - father's elder brother / paternal elder uncle / eldest of brothers / older brother / senior / respectful form of address / term of honor / senior male 'sire' / feudal rank / a count (nobility) / hundred (old)

jué - nobility / feudal title or rank / peerage / ancient bronze wine holder with 3 legs and loop handle

*Note: the first character in Chinese is also a variant of 霸

遮蔽

January 15, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shahei

Japanese Meaning: cover / screen (something from observation) / shielding / shelter / shade (a light) / reverse clipping

Parts:

sha(saegi) - intercept / interrupt / obstruct

hei(oo, pei) - cover / mantle / shade / be ruined / capsize

Chinese Pinyin: zhēbì

Chinese Meaning: to cover / to hide from view / to screen / to obstruct / to block / to shelter / provide protection / defilade (military)

Parts:

zhē - to cover up (a shortcoming) / to screen off / to hide / to conceal / to shield / protect / block / obstruct / impede

bì - to cover / to shield / to screen / to conceal / hide / to shelter / sum up / generalize

双刃/雙

January 16, 2013

Japanese Romaji: moroha

Japanese Meaning: double-edged

Parts:

moro(futa, sou) - pair / set of two / comparison / counter for pairs

ha(ba, yaiba, jin, nin) - a forged blade / sword / edged weapon / edge (of a knife or sword) / the wavy pattern formed in the metal on the surface of a forged blade / something sharp like a sword / someone or something powerful

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word can also be written as 両刃, 諸刃, or もろ刃

*Note 2: 双六 (sugoroku) refers to two types of Japanese board games

Chinese Pinyin: shuāngrèn

Chinese Meaning: double-edged / two-edged

Parts:

shuāng - two / double / dual / pair / couple / both / set of two / twins / two-fold / even (number)

rèn - edge of blade / edged tool / cutlery / knife edge / blade / kill with a knife or sword

*Note 3: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character. A variant of the second character is 刃

*Note 4: the equivalent to the English idiom “double-edged sword” in Japanese is 諸刃の剣 (moroha no tsurugi). In Chinese, it is 雙刃劍 (shuāngrènjiàn). Both can refer to either a physical sword or the figurative meaning of the risks involved in something seemingly good.

哀愁

January 17, 2013

Japanese Romaji: aishuu

Japanese Meaning: sorrow / sadness / grief / sorrowful / pathos

Parts:

ai(awa, kana) - grief / sorrow / sympathize / pity / pathos / pathetic

shuu(ure) - be anxious / distress / grieve / lament

Chinese Pinyin: āichóu

Chinese Meaning: sorrow / sadness / distressed / sorrowful / plaintive / pensive

Parts:

āi - sorrow / grief / sad / sadness / mournful / grieved / sorrowful / pity / pitiful / sympathize / to grieve for / to pity / to lament / to mourn / to condole / have compassion for

chóu - to worry about / sad / distressed / worried / unhappy / melancholy / depressing / saddening / gloomy / anxiety / be anxious about / sorrow / woe

*Note: do not confuse the first character with 衷衰袁袞

呪詛/咒

January 18, 2013

Japanese Romaji: juso

Japanese Meaning: curse / malediction / hex

Parts:

ju(noro, majina) - curse / malediction / magic spell / charm

so(noro) - curse

Chinese Pinyin: zhòuzǔ

Chinese Meaning: to curse / to swear at / to revile

Parts:

zhòu - curse / to revile / malediction / damn / swear / to hex / execrate / pray (for curses on another) /
to put a curse on somebody / incantation / mantra / chant / charm / magic spell / magic words /
enchantment

zǔ - curse / wish somebody evil / swear (oath) / pledge

顧慮

January 19, 2013

Japanese Romaji: koryo

Japanese Meaning: concern / solicitude / consideration / attention

Parts:

ko(kaeri) - examine oneself / look back / review / turn around

ryo(omonpaka) - concern / consider / prudence / thought / deliberate / fear

Chinese Pinyin: gùlǜ

Chinese Meaning: misgivings / apprehensions / show concern about / concern / worry / scruple

Parts:

gù - look back / look around / look at / to look after / to take into consideration / to attend to / visit / call on / patronize / customer / patron / client

lǜ - to think over / to consider / take into account / anxiety / be concerned / worry about

征伐

January 20, 2013

Japanese Romaji: seibatsu

Japanese Meaning: conquest / subjugation / suppression / overcoming / punitive expedition / extermination

Parts:

sei(so, yu) - subjugate / attack the rebellious / collect taxes

batsu(u, ki) - attack / strike / punish / to fell

Chinese Pinyin: zhēngfá

Chinese Meaning: conquest / campaign / to battle / to be on the warpath / punitive military action / to go on or send a punitive expedition

Parts:

zhēng - journey / trip / expedition / to go on a long campaign / to attack / invade / attack / conquer

fá - to cut down / to fell / chop down / subjugate / to dispatch an expedition against / to attack / to strike / to boast / brag

*Note: a variant of the first character is 征 The first character is also the simplified Chinese version of 徵 Two variants of the second character are 伐 and 戕

腸壁

January 21, 2013

Japanese Romaji: chouheki

Japanese Meaning: intestinal wall

Parts:

chou(harawata, wata) - intestines / guts / bowels / viscera

heki(kabe, peki) - wall / barrier / fence / (stomach) lining

Chinese Pinyin: chángbì

Chinese Meaning: wall of intestine / lining of gut

Parts:

cháng - intestines / bowels / sausage / emotions

bì - wall / partition walls / barrier / rampart / breastwork / cliff

*Note: a variant of the first character is 腸

喧嘩

January 22, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kenka

Japanese Meaning: quarrel / argument / brawl / fight / squabble / scuffle / a row

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 吵架 (chǎojià)

Parts:

ken(kamabisu, yakama, gen) - noisy / boisterous

ka - noisy

Chinese Pinyin: xuānhuá

Chinese Meaning: hubbub / clamor / to make a racket / uproar / turmoil / confused noise

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 喧々囂々 (kenkengougou), がやがや (gayagaya)

Parts:

xuān - clamor / clamour / noise / lively / noisy / talk loudly

huá(huā) - clamor / clamour / noise / hubbub / tumult / uproar / onomatopoeia / rushing sound / gush forward / cat-calling sound / crashing sound

*Note 1: although this word could be used in the same situation in both languages, the Japanese term refers to two or more people arguing whereas the Chinese term refers to the noise caused by things such as people arguing, fans celebrating, partygoers revelling, somebody yelling, etc.

*Note 2: the first character is also the simplified Chinese version of 誼. A variant of the first character is 譁. Another variant of the second character is 譁.

欧亚/歐亞

January 23, 2013

Japanese Romaji: oua

Japanese Meaning: Europe and Asia / Eurasia

Parts:

ou - Europe

a - Asia / come after / rank next / sub- / -ous (Chemistry)/ -ite

Chinese Pinyin: ōuyà

Chinese Meaning: Europe and Asia / Eurasia

Parts:

ōu - Europe / (used for transliteration from other languages)

yà(yǎ) - Asia / Asian / second / next to / inferior / sub- / used as a prefix to names

*Note: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

撞球

January 24, 2013

Japanese Romaji: doukyuu

Japanese Meaning: billiards / pool (game)

Parts:

dou(tsu, shu) - pierce / prick / stab / thrust

kyuu(tama, dama) - ball / sphere / globe / orb / bead (of sweat, dew, etc.) / drop / droplet / ball (in sports) / pile (of noodles, etc.) / bullet / bulb (e.g. light bulb) / lens (of glasses, etc.) / bead (of an abacus) / (slang) testicle / gem / jewel (spherical) / pearl / female entertainer (e.g. geisha) / (derogatory) person's character / item, funds or person used as part of a plot / (chicken's) egg / coin / precious / beautiful / excellent / counter for ball (in baseball)

*Note: in Japanese, this is more commonly known as ビリヤード (biriyaado) or 玉突き (tamatsuki)

Chinese Pinyin: zhuàngqiú

Chinese Meaning: billiards / billiards ball / pool (game)

Parts:

zhuàng - to hit / to strike / to meet by accident / to run into / collide / to bump against / knock against / to bump into / come across / rush / dash / barge (into) / take one's chance / try one's luck

qiú - ball / sphere / globe / orb / round / the earth / ball game / match

蕎麦/麥

January 25, 2013

Japanese Romaji: soba

Japanese Meaning: buckwheat / soba (Japanese buckwheat noodles)

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 蕎麥麵 (qiáomài miàn) when referring to the Japanese noodles

Parts:

so(soba) - buckwheat

ba(mugi, baku) - wheat / barley / oats / rye

*Note 1: this word isn't often written out in kanji in Japanese

Chinese Pinyin: qiáomài

Chinese Meaning: buckwheat

Parts:

qiáo - buckwheat

mài - wheat / barley / oats / rye

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

蜂蜜

January 26, 2013

Japanese Romaji: hachimitsu

Japanese Meaning: honey

Parts:

hachi(bachi, hou) - bee / wasp / hornet

mitsu(mi) - honey / nectar / molasses

Chinese Pinyin: fēngmì

Chinese Meaning: honey

Parts:

fēng - bee / wasp / hornet

mì - honey / nectar / sweet / honeyed / syrupy

*Note: a variant of the first character is 𨮑

狩獵/獵

January 27, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shuryou

Japanese Meaning: hunting

Parts:

shu(ka, kari, ga) - hunt / raid / gather / picking

ryou(ka, kari) - hunting / shooting / game-hunting / (wild) game / bag

Chinese Pinyin: shòuliè

Chinese Meaning: hunting / to hunt

Parts:

shòu - to hunt / to go hunting (as winter sport in former times) / hunting dog / imperial tour

liè - hunting / chase / field sports

刹那/刹

January 28, 2013

Japanese Romaji: setsuna

Japanese Meaning: moment / instant / split-second / juncture

Parts:

setsu(satsu) - temple / pagoda / central pillar of pagoda / ksetra (Buddhism)

na - what?

Chinese Pinyin: chànà

Chinese Meaning: a moment / an instant / split second / the twinkling of an eye

Parts:

chà(shā) - Buddhist monastery, temple, or shrine / ksetra (Buddhism) / to brake / check / stop

nà(nǎ) - that / that one / those / then (in that case) / used in combination to indicate emphasis or contempt / an interrogative particle / who? / which? / what? / where?

*Note: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.
The second character is a variant of 哪 in Chinese.

敵陣

January 29, 2013

Japanese Romaji: tekijin

Japanese Meaning: enemy line / enemy camp

Parts:

teki(kataki, gataki, kana) - enemy / foe / opponent / competitor / rival / adversary / menace / danger / threat

jin - battle formation / battle array / position / ranks / camp / encampment / group

*Note: in Japanese 殺陣 (staged sword fight) has the reading of "tate"

Chinese Pinyin: dízhèn

Chinese Meaning: the enemy ranks

Parts:

dí - enemy / foe / opponent / rival / match / equal / hostile / antagonistic / opposing / to resist / oppose / to withstand / stand up to

zhèn - battle formation / battle array / disposition of troops / column, row, or file of troops / battle front / battlefield / wave / spate / burst / (short) spell / short period of time / counter for events or states of short duration (fit of coughing, spell of pain or dizziness, spatter of rain, cold weather, etc.) / fit (of coughing) / wave (of vertigo) / burst (of applause) / gust (of joy, wind) / spatter (of rain)

銅鑼

January 30, 2013

Japanese Romaji: dora

Japanese Meaning: gong

Parts:

do(dou, akagane) - copper

ra - gong

Chinese Pinyin: tóngluó

Chinese Meaning: gong

Parts:

tóng - copper / brass / bronze

luó - gong

饒舌

January 31, 2013

Japanese Romaji: jouzetsu

Japanese Meaning: talkativeness / garrulity / loquacity

Parts:

jou - abundant

zetsu(shita, jita) - tongue / tongue-like object / clapper (of a bell) / talon (of a lock) / reed

*Note: in Japanese, this word can also be written as 冗舌

Chinese Pinyin: ráoshé

Chinese Meaning: talkative / to blather / to shoot one's mouth off / rap (music)

Parts:

ráo - abundant / plentiful / bountiful / full of / fertile / rich / exuberant / to add for free / to throw in as a bonus / give something extra as a gift / to spare / to forgive / have mercy / let somebody off / lenient / liberal / despite / although / in spite of / whatever

shé - tongue / clapper (of a bell)

狡猾

February 1, 2013

Japanese Romaji: koukatsu

Japanese Meaning: sly / cunning / crafty

Parts:

kou(kosu, zuru) - crafty / cunning / sly / niggardly

katsu - crafty

Chinese Pinyin: jiǎohuá

Chinese Meaning: sly / cunning / crafty / tricky

Parts:

jiǎo - crafty / cunning / sly / foxy / deceitful / treacherous

huá - sly / crafty / cunning / shrewd / deceitful

棍棒

February 2, 2013

Japanese Romaji: konbou

Japanese Meaning: stick / club (weapon) / cudgel / bludgeon

Parts:

kon - a cane

bou - cane / club / pole / rod / stick / line

Chinese Pinyin: gùnbàng

Chinese Meaning: stick / club (weapon) / cudgel / truncheon

Parts:

gùn - a stick / rod / club / staff / cudgel / truncheon / scoundrel / rascal / villain / ruffian

bàng - a stick / club / cudgel / truncheon / hit / smart / capable / strong / handsome / excellent / hefty /

husky / wonderful / fine / excellent / fabulous / counter for legs of a relay race

耽溺

February 3, 2013

Japanese Romaji: tandeki

Japanese Meaning: indulgence / debauchery / dissipation

Parts:

tan(fuke) - addicted / absorbed in

deki(obo) - drown / indulge

Chinese Pinyin: dānnì

Chinese Meaning: to indulge in / to wallow in

Parts:

dān - to indulge in / be addicted to / abandoned oneself to / to delay / hold up / miss the chance / be negligent

nì(niào) - to drown / submerge in water / to indulge / addicted to / to spoil (a child)

*Note: a variant of the first character is 耽. The second character is also a variant of 溺 in Chinese

洞窟

February 4, 2013

Japanese Romaji: doukutsu

Japanese Meaning: cave

Parts:

dou(hora, uro) - cave / den / grotto / hollow / cavity / hole / excavation

kutsu - cavern

Chinese Pinyin: dòngkū

Chinese Meaning: a cave

Parts:

dòng - cave / grotto / ravine / hole / penetrate / see through / zero

kū - cave / hole / pit / cellar / underground / a den for wild animals / gambling den / dig the ground and build underground living quarters

*Note: a variant of the first character is 硿

早熟

February 5, 2013

Japanese Romaji: soujuku

Japanese Meaning: precocity / early ripening / premature development

Parts:

sou(sa, haya, baya, wa) - early / fast / already / now / by this time

juku(u, kona, gona) - mature / mellow / ripen / acquire skill

Chinese Pinyin: zǎoshú

Chinese Meaning: precocious / early-maturing

Parts:

zǎo - early / earlier / soon / beforehand / in advance / previous / premature / (long) ago / before / morning / Good Morning!

shú(shóu) - well-cooked (of food) / prepared / processed / done / ripe (of fruit) / mature (of seeds) / familiar with / skilled / well-versed / experienced / conversant / careful or painstaking survey, study, inspection, etc. / deep sleep / sound sleep

潮汐

February 6, 2013

Japanese Romaji: chouseki

Japanese Meaning: a tide / ebb and flow

Parts:

chou(ushio, shio) - tide / current / salt water / opportunity

seki(ushio, shio) - tide / eventide / salt water / opportunity

Chinese Pinyin: cháoxī

Chinese Meaning: a tide

Parts:

cháo - tide / current / flow / damp / wet / moist / humid / inferior in skill or fineness (gold, silver, etc.)

xī(xì) - night tides / evening ebb tide

墨汁/墨

February 7, 2013

Japanese Romaji: bokujuu

Japanese Meaning: India ink / China ink / ink (of a cuttlefish, etc.)

Parts:

boku(sumi, zumi) - black ink / ink stick / India ink / Mexico

juu(shiru, jiru, tsuyu) - soup / broth / gravy / juice / sap / pus / (dipping) sauce

Chinese Pinyin: mòzhī

Chinese Meaning: prepared Chinese ink

Parts:

mò - ink / ink stick / China ink / black / dark / a black dye / writing / calligraphy / handwriting / painting /
literate / letters / learning / statutes / institutions / greedy / covetous / corrupt / corporal punishment
consisting of tattooing characters on the victim's forehead / Mexico
zhī - juice / natural fluid / sap / gravy / sauce / liquor

泡沫

February 8, 2013

Japanese Romaji: utakata / houmatsu

Japanese Meaning: bubbles / bubble foam / froth / bubble on surface of liquid / ephemeral / transience / evanescence / fleeting

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 短暂的 (duǎnzànde) for the meaning of "ephemeral"

Parts:

hou(awa, abuku, pou) - bubbles / foam / froth / suds / head on beer

matsu(awa) - splash / suds / bubble / foam / froth / head on beer

Chinese Pinyin: pàomò

Chinese Meaning: foam / froth / (soap) bubble / (economic) bubble

Parts:

pào(pāo)- bubble / foam / suds / blister / to soak / to pickle / to steep / to dip / to infuse / kill time / to dawdle / dilly-dally / shilly-shally / to hang about / to pick up (a girl) / to get off with / puffed / swollen / spongy / small lake (especially in place names) / bulb or bulb-shaped thing / counter for burst, spray, or stream of urine, excretions, tears, etc.

mò - foam / froth / bubbles / suds / saliva / spittle

恬淡

February 9, 2013

Japanese Romaji: tentan

Japanese Meaning: disinterested / indifferent (to fame) / unselfish

Parts:

ten - composure / nonchalant

tan(awa) - faint / fleeting / pale / thin

Chinese Pinyin: tiándàn

Chinese Meaning: quiet and contented / indifferent to fame or gain

Parts:

tián - quiet / calm / tranquil / peaceful

dàn - diluted / watery / weak / thin / mild / light in color / slight / tasteless / insipid / fade / off-season /
when business is poor / dull / slack / fresh / indifferent / without worldly desires / nitrogen

*Note: in Chinese, this word can also be written as 恬澹

癸巳

February 10, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kishi / mizunotomi

Japanese Meaning: thirtieth year of the sexagenary cycle (e.g. 2013)

Parts:

ki(mizunoto) - tenth sign of the Chinese calendar / tenth in rank

shi(mi) - sign of the snake or serpent (zodiac) / sixth sign of the Chinese zodiac

Chinese Pinyin: guǐsì

Chinese Meaning: thirtieth year of the sexagenary cycle (e.g. 2013)

Parts:

guǐ - tenth sign of the Chinese calendar / tenth in order

sì - sign of the snake or serpent (zodiac) / sixth sign of the Chinese zodiac

*Note: this term is used in the Chinese sexagenary (60-year) cycle as an ancient form of time-keeping. The “10 Heavenly Stems” (甲乙丙丁戊己庚辛壬癸) combine with the “12 Earthly Branches” (子丑寅卯辰巳午未申酉戌亥) to form a cycle of 60 pairs with each one denoting a specific year in the Chinese calendar and repeats every 60 years. The 10 stems can correspond to one of five elements (wood, fire, earth, metal, water) and the 12 branches each correspond to an animal in the Chinese zodiac. Further details are at the link below:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexagenary_cycle

愉悦/悦

February 11, 2013

Japanese Romaji: yuetsu

Japanese Meaning: joy

Parts:

yu(tano) - happy / pleasure / rejoice

etsu(yoroko) - joy / ecstasy / rapture / rejoicing / self-satisfaction

Chinese Pinyin: yúyuè

Chinese Meaning: joyful / cheerful / delighted / joy / delight

Parts:

yú - pleased / pleasant / delightful / delighted / happy / joyful / cheerful

yuè - pleased / delighted / to delight / pleasure / happy / contented / gratified

*Note 1: the second version of the second character is mostly limited to traditional Chinese in printed material

*Note 2: another variant of the second character is 悅

憧憬

February 12, 2013

Japanese Romaji: doukei / shoukei

Japanese Meaning: longing / aspiration

Parts:

dou(akoga, shou) - admire / adore / aspire to / long for / yearn after

kei(akoga) - admire / aspire to / yearn for

Chinese Pinyin: chōngjǐng

Chinese Meaning: longing / to long for / yearning / to look forward to / vision for future

Parts:

chōng - irresolute / indecisive / unsettled / flickering / moving about / wavering / yearn for / long for / look forward to

jǐng - awaken / rouse / become conscious / come to realize / wake up to reality

創刊

February 13, 2013

Japanese Romaji: soukan

Japanese Meaning: launching (e.g. newspaper) / first issue

Parts:

sou(kizu, tsuku, haji) - originate / start / genesis / hurt / injury / wound / cut / gash / bruise / scratch / scrape / scar / chip / crack / nick / flaw / defect / weakness / weak point / stain (on one's reputation) / disgrace / dishonour / dishonor / (emotional) hurt / hurt feelings

kan - carve / engrave / publish / publication / edition (e.g. morning, evening, special) / published in (year) / publication frequency (e.g. daily, monthly)

Chinese Pinyin: chuàngkān

Chinese Meaning: to start publishing / to found a journal / start publication

Parts:

chuàng(chuāng) - to begin / to initiate / to inaugurate / establish / to start / to create / original / novel (idea) / unprecedented / a wound / a (knife) cut / a sore / injury / trauma / inflict casualties (on)

kān - to print / to publish / carry / publication / periodical / journal / delete / correct (errors) / engrave / inscribe / cut

*Note: 2 variants of the first character are 办 and 戡

胸臆

February 14, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kyouoku

Japanese Meaning: one's inmost thoughts (feelings)

Parts:

kyou(muna, mune) - bosom / breast / chest / feelings / heart

oku - heart / mind / thought / cowardly / fear / timidity / repress one's mind / expect many things

Chinese Pinyin: xiōngyì

Chinese Meaning: inner feelings / what is deep in one's heart

Parts:

xiōng - bosom / breast / chest / thorax / bust / heart / mind / aspiration

yì - feelings / opinions / thoughts / chest / breast / bosom

*Note: a variant of the first character is 胸

仰臥

February 15, 2013

Japanese Romaji: gyōga

Japanese Meaning: lie on one's back

Parts:

gyō(ao, o, oo, ossha, no, kou, gou) - face-up / look up / depend / drink / respect / revere / seek / take

ga(fu, bu) - bend down / bow / lie prostrate

*Note: 草臥れる is read as "kutabireru"

Chinese Pinyin: yǎngwò

Chinese Meaning: lie on one's back / to lie supine

Parts:

yǎng - to face upward / to look up at / raise one's head to look / look up to / to admire / to respect / to rely on / depend on

wò - to lie down / to crouch

腋臭/臭

February 16, 2013

Japanese Romaji: wakiga

Japanese Meaning: body odor (odour) / abnormal underarm odor

Parts:

waki(eki) - armpit / under one's arm / side / flank / beside / close to / near / by / aside / away / out of the way / off-track / off-topic / deuteragonist / supporting role

ga(kusa, gusa, nio, shuu) - fragrance / be fragrant / odor / odour / ill-smelling / stink / stinking (of) / smacking of / hinting of / be bright / glow / savor / suspicious-looking

Chinese Pinyin: yèchòu

Chinese Meaning: body odor (odour) / armpit odor / underarm stink / bromhidrosis

Parts:

yè - armpit / axil (botany, angle between stem and branch) / axilla

chòu(xiù) - stench / stink / smelly / foul / to smell (bad) / emit foul odor / disgusting / notorious / odious / severely / mercilessly / unrelentingly / sense of smell / scent

*Note 1: in Chinese, this is also called 狐臭 (húchòu)

*Note 2 : 2 variants of the second character are 臭 and 嗅

紡錘

February 17, 2013

Japanese Romaji: bousui

Japanese Meaning: spindle

Parts:

bou(tsumu) - spinning (thread, etc.)

sui(omori, tsumu) - sinker (fishing) / a weight / plumb-bob / spindle / counter for spindles

Chinese Pinyin: fǎngchuí

Chinese Meaning: spindle

Parts:

fǎng - to spin (cotton, hemp, etc.) / reel / weave / fine woven silk fabric / thin silk cloth / reeled pongee

chuí - hammer / to hammer into shape / weight (e.g. of a steelyard or balance) / balance weight on a scale / weight-shaped thing

麒麟

February 18, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kirin

Japanese Meaning: giraffe / qilin (Chinese unicorn)

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 長頸鹿 (chángjǐnglù) for the meaning of “giraffe”

Parts:

ki - Chinese unicorn / giraffe / shining / bright / genius

rin - Chinese unicorn / giraffe / shining / bright / genius

*Note 1: for the meaning of “giraffe”, this word is usually written in katakana

Chinese Pinyin: qílín

Chinese Meaning: qilin (mythical Chinese animal) / Chinese unicorn / kylin

Parts:

qí - male unicorn

lín - female unicorn

*Note 2: a variant of this word in Chinese is 騏驎

薔薇

February 19, 2013

Japanese Romaji: bara

Japanese Meaning: rose (plant)

Parts:

ba - a kind of grass

ra(zenmai) - an edible fern / royal fern (*Osmunda japonica*) / flowering fern / osmund

Chinese Pinyin: qiángwēi

Chinese Meaning: rose (plant)

Parts:

qiáng - wild rose

wēi - thorn fern / rose / a species of fern (*osmunda regalis*) / royal fern / flowering fern / bush vetch

往復

February 20, 2013

Japanese Romaji: oufuku

Japanese Meaning: making a round trip / going and returning / coming and going / round-trip ticket / return ticket / correspondence / exchanging (letters) / socializing / visiting one another

Japanese to Chinese translation: 來回 (lái huí) is more commonly used for “round-trip”

Parts:

ou(i, yu) - going / journey / travel / let go / chase away

fuku(mata, puku) - restore / resume / return to / revert

Chinese Pinyin: wǎngfù

Chinese Meaning: to go and come back / to make a return trip / backwards and forwards (e.g. of piston or pump action) / to reciprocate (of machine part) / to and fro / continuous / comings and goings between friends, etc.

Parts:

wǎng - to go (in a direction) / to / towards / depart / (of a train) bound for / past / previous / formerly / bygone / an adverb indicating time or direction

fù - to go and return / to return / to resume / to return to a normal or original state / to repeat / repeatedly / again / once more / anew / to recover / to restore / to turn over / turn round / come back / to reply / to answer / to reply to a letter / to retaliate / revenge / avenge / to carry out

*Note 1: although this word has various uses in Japanese and Chinese, the most common meaning in Japanese seems to be used for round-trip travels whereas the most common meaning in Chinese is used for moving machine parts. The most basic meaning though is “to go back and forth”.

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 徃 A Chinese variant of the second character is 覆

横溢/横

February 21, 2013

Japanese Romaji: ouitsu

Japanese Meaning: overflowing / inundation

Parts:

ou(yoko) - side (of a box, etc.) / beside / aside / next to / sideways / horizontal (as opposed to vertical) / lying down / side-to-side (as opposed to front-to-back) / breadth / width / unconnected / woof

itsu(afu, kobo) - overflow / spill / inundate

Chinese Pinyin: héngyì

Chinese Meaning: to overflow / brimming with

Parts:

héng(hèng) - horizontal / across / sideways / crosswise / lateral / transverse / running from east to west or west to east / horizontal character stroke / unrestrainedly / fiercely / turbulently / harsh and unreasonable / perverse / unexpected / inauspicious / untoward

yì - to overflow / brim over / flow over / full / show / reveal / be explicit / excessive / exaggerated

*Note 1: this word can be used in the literal sense (e.g. overflowing with water) or figurative sense (e.g. a person overflowing with energy).

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

阿諛

February 22, 2013

Japanese Romaji: ayu

Japanese Meaning: flattery

Parts:

a(omone, o) - flatter / fawn upon / corner / nook / recess / a shadow / shade / Africa

yu - flatter

Chinese Pinyin: ēyú

Chinese Meaning: to flatter / flattery / to toady

Parts:

ē(ā, à) - flatter / to favour / assent / pander to / play up to / toady / rely on / riverbank / corner / edge / pillar / slender and beautiful / discharge (night soil, urine, etc.) / prefix used before monosyllabic names, kinship terms, etc. to indicate familiarity / used in transliteration

yú - to flatter / truckle / toady to / adulate

垂涎

February 23, 2013

Japanese Romaji: suizen / suien

Japanese Meaning: watering at the mouth / covetousness / desire to possess something

Parts:

sui(shida, ta, da, nan'na) - droop / hang / slouch / suspend / zigzag-shaped paper streamer often used to adorn Shinto-related objects / hornbeam plant

zen(yodare, en) - drool / saliva / slobber

*Note 1: the word 紙垂 has the reading "shide"

Chinese Pinyin: chuíxián

Chinese Meaning: to water at the mouth / to drool / to covet / to crave / to yearn for / slaver

Parts:

chuí - to hang (down) / droop / dangle / fall / let down / bend down / suspend / hand down / (of tears, etc.) flow downward / drip / drool / bequeath / leave a name in history / nearly / almost / nearing / to approach / on the verge of / (of one's elders) condescend

xián - saliva / spittle / shamelessly

*Note 2: another variant of the first character is 垂 A variant of the second character is 涎

饗宴

February 24, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kyouen

Japanese Meaning: a feast / a banquet / a dinner

Parts:

kyou - banquet

en(utage) - party / feast / banquet

Chinese Pinyin: xiǎngyàn

Chinese Meaning: a feast / a banquet

Parts:

xiǎng - banquet / host banquet / offer or enjoy sacrifice / to entertain / to offer food and drinks

yàn - to entertain (with food and drinks) / a feast / banquet / dinner party / repose / of ease and comfort
/ leisurely

*Note: 2 variants of the second character are 饗 and 饗

聖賢

February 25, 2013

Japanese Romaji: seiken

Japanese Meaning: saints and sages

Parts:

sei(hijiri, shou) - holy / sacred / holiness / sacredness / pure / St. / priest / sage / saint / master / expert / holy person / highly virtuous monk / Buddhist solitary / Buddhist missionary / emperor (archaic)

ken(kashiko, gashiko, saka, zaka, gen) - cleverness / intelligent / wisdom / wise

Chinese Pinyin: shèngxián

Chinese Meaning: a sage / saints / wise and holy man / virtuous ruler / Buddhist lama

Parts:

shèng - holy / sacred / consecration / saint / sage / saintly

xián - worthy or virtuous person / capable / talented / good / able / clever / wise / honorific used for a person of the same or a younger generation

*Note: a variant of the second character is 賢

僧侶/僧

February 26, 2013

Japanese Romaji: souryo

Japanese Meaning: (Buddhist) priest / monk / bonze

Parts:

sou(zou) - Buddhist priest / monk / bonze

ryo(tomo) - companion / follower / attendant / retinue

Chinese Pinyin: sēnglǚ

Chinese Meaning: (Buddhist) priest / monk

Parts:

sēng - Buddhist / Buddhist priest / monk / Sangha, the Buddhist monastic order

lǚ - companion / associate with / mate

裂罅

February 27, 2013

Japanese Romaji: rekka

Japanese Meaning: fissure

Parts:

retsu(gi, sa) - split / to tear / rend

ka(hibi) - a crack / fissure / hole / flaw or roughness (especially in skin) / chaps

Chinese Pinyin: lièxià

Chinese Meaning: fissure / crevice / a crack / rift

Parts:

liè - to split (open) / to crack / to break open / come apart / to rend / a crack / gap

xià - a crack / fissure / split / rift / gap / cleft / grudge

座席

February 28, 2013

Japanese Romaji: zaseki

Japanese Meaning: seat

Parts:

za(suwa, gura) - seat / place / position / sit / squat / cushion / status / gathering / group / a stand / pedestal / platform / (historical) trade guild / attached to names of theatres, theatrical troupes, and constellations / counter for theatres, deities, Buddhist images, tall mountains, and satokagura songs
seki(se) - seat / mat / occasion / place / location (of a gathering, etc.) / position / post

Chinese Pinyin: zuòxí

Chinese Meaning: seat (at a banquet, etc.) / guest of honor

Parts:

zuò - seat / base / a stand / pedestal / counter for buildings, mountains, bridges, and similar immense objects

xí - seat / place / woven mat / take a seat / feast / dinner / banquet / office / job / post / place in a democratic assembly / counter for tables, dinner, or course

*Note 1: this term usually refers to seats reserved for people for a specific purpose (e.g. in an auditorium, on a bus, plane, or train, etc.)

*Note 2: A variant of the first character is 坐 A variant of the second character is 蓆

返還

March 1, 2013

Japanese Romaji: henkan

Japanese Meaning: return (of something to its owner) / restoration

Parts:

hen(kae, gae) - return / come back to / repay / answer / fade

kan(kae, gen) - return / send back

Chinese Pinyin: fǎnhuán

Chinese Meaning: return of something to its original owner / restitution / remittance

Parts:

fǎn - to return (to) / revert to / go back / restore / send back / give back / return / resume doing something

huán(hái) - to pay back / repay / restore / give back / to return / come back / go back / revolve / turn back / still / still in progress / still more / yet / even more / in addition / besides / at the same time / fairly / passably (good) / quite / as early as / even / also / else / or / had better

吟詠

March 2, 2013

Japanese Romaji: gin'ei

Japanese Meaning: recitation or chanting of a poem

Parts:

gin - singing / recital / versify

ei(uta, yo) - composing / recitation / poem / song

Chinese Pinyin: yínyǒng

Chinese Meaning: to recite / to sing (of poetry)

Parts:

yín - sing / recite / to chant / to hum / to moan / groan / lament / sigh / type of poetry

yǒng - to sing / to hum / to chant / the chirping of birds

*Note: the poem is one of 100 from a famous Japanese anthology known as the 小倉百人一首 (Ogura Hyakunin Isshu). The poems appear in the popular Japanese card game known as "karuta" which involves a reader reciting each of the poems during the game. The poem in my picture was written by Ariwara no Narihira and is read as:

Chihayaburu

Kamiyo mo kikazu

Tatsuta-gawa

Kara kurenai ni

Mizu kukura to ha

豎琴/豎

March 3, 2013

Japanese Romaji: tategoto

Japanese Meaning: harp / lyre

Parts:

tate - height / vertical / length / front-to-back / north-to-south / hierarchy / (weaving) warp

goto(koto, kin, gon) - koto (13-stringed Japanese zither) / qin (7-stringed Chinese zither) / guqin / harp

Chinese Pinyin: shùqín

Chinese Meaning: harp

Parts:

shù - to erect / vertical / perpendicular / upright / to stand (something) / vertical stroke (in kanji)

qín - qin (7-stringed Chinese zither) / guqin or zither / Chinese lute or guitar / musical instrument in general, especially stringed, piano, etc.

*Note: 2 variants of the second character are 琴 and 瑟

峡湾/峽灣

March 4, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kyouwan

Japanese Meaning: fjord

Parts:

kyou(kai) - gorge / ravine

wan - bay / gulf / inlet

Chinese Pinyin: xiáwān

Chinese Meaning: fjord

Parts:

xiá - gorge / ravine / strait / isthmus

wān - bay / gulf / inlet / cove / bend of stream / anchor / moor

*Note: the Japanese versions of each character are also the simplified versions of each Chinese character. Another variant of the first character is 陝

喝采

March 5, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kassai

Japanese Meaning: acclamation / applause / cheers / ovation

Parts:

katsu - scold / hoarse / exclamation used to scold practitioners (in Zen)

sai - appearance / form / coloring / dice / a die / take / baton (of command)

Chinese Pinyin: hècǎi

Chinese Meaning: acclaim / applaud / cheer / bravo

Parts:

hè(hē) - to shout loudly / call out / to drink / My goodness!

cǎi(cài) - color / complexion / looks / facial expression / spirit / fief / feudal estate / vassalage / allotment
to a feudal noble / collect / gather / pick / pluck

*Note: A variant of the first character is 𪗇 In Chinese, the second character is also a variant of 採 as well as its simplified form.

両棲/兩

March 6, 2013

Japanese Romaji: ryousei

Japanese Meaning: amphibious / amphibian

Parts:

ryou(moro) - both (e.g. both shoulders, etc.) / two / old Japanese coin / ryo (obsolete unit of currency) / 41-42 g (one sixteenth of a kin) / 2 tan (measure of fabric size) / counter for carriages (e.g. in a train)
sei(su, sumi) - dwell / live

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word can also be written as 両生

Chinese Pinyin: liǎngqī

Chinese Meaning: amphibious / amphibian / dual-talented / able to work in two different lines

Parts:

liǎng - both / two / pair / couple / both sides / both parties / a couple of / some / a few / ounce / tael, unit of weight equal to 50 grams (modern) or 1/16 of a catty 斤 (archaic) / liang (a unit of weight, equal to 1/10 of jin or 50 gm)
qī - to dwell / to live / to stay / reside / settle / to perch / to rest (of birds) / roost / restless / fidgety

*Note 2: another variant of the first character is 兩 2 variants of the second character are 栖 and 棲

剛毅

March 7, 2013

Japanese Romaji: gouki

Japanese Meaning: fortitude / stouthearted / firmness of character / hardihood / manliness

Parts:

gou - strength / sturdy / strong / hard / manly

ki - strong

Chinese Pinyin: gāngyì

Chinese Meaning: fortitude / resolute / firm / unwavering / tough and determined / steadfast / stalwart

Parts:

gāng - strong / firm / hard / tough / rigid / unyielding / inflexible / indomitable / just (now) / barely / exactly / only / only a short while ago / only at this moment

yì - staunch / firm and resolute / determined / decisive / persist

顆粒

March 8, 2013

Japanese Romaji: karyuu

Japanese Meaning: granule

Parts:

ka - grain (e.g. of rice)

ryuu(tsubu) - grains / a drop / bead / counter for tiny particles or small round objects including grains, seeds, pills, drops, etc.

Chinese Pinyin: kēlì

Chinese Meaning: granule / kernel / granulated (sugar, chemical, product) / small and roundish things

Parts:

kē - grain / kernel / something small and round / counter for small spheres, pearls, corn grains, teeth, sweat, hearts, satellites, etc.

lì - grain / granule / pellet / small particle / counter for grain-like things (rice, sand, etc.) or small round things (peas, bullets, peanuts, pills, grains, etc.)

搔痒/搔癢

March 9, 2013

Japanese Romaji: souyou

Japanese Meaning: itch / itchy / irritating / pruritus / pruritic

Parts:

sou(ka, ga) - to scratch / comb / rake / paddle / behead

you(kayu, gayu) - itchy

Chinese Pinyin: sāoyǎng

Chinese Meaning: to scratch (an itch) / to tickle

Parts:

sāo - to scratch / irritate / annoy

yǎng - to itch / to tickle

*Note: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character. The Chinese version of the first character is an old variant of 騷

喇叭

March 10, 2013

Japanese Romaji: rappa

Japanese Meaning: trumpet / horn / bugle

Parts:

ratu(ra) - chatter / rattle on

pa - open

Chinese Pinyin: lǎba

Chinese Meaning: horn (automobile, etc.) / trumpet / bugle / brass wind instrument / suona (Chinese musical instrument) / loudspeaker / speaker / amplifier

Chinese to Japanese Translation: スピーカー (supiikaa) for the meaning of "loudspeaker"

Parts:

lǎ(lǎ) - horn / trumpet / bugle / loudspeaker / (Buddhism) lama / final particle / (onomatopoeia) / (phonetic)

ba(bā) - trumpet / denote a sound or sharp noise (gunfire, etc.)

俯瞰

March 11, 2013

Japanese Romaji: fukan

Japanese Meaning: having an overhead view / overlooking / looking down at / having a bird's-eye view / having a high-angle view

Parts:

fu(utsubu, utsumu) - bend down / lie prostrate

kan - look / see

Chinese Pinyin: fǔkàn

Chinese Meaning: to overlook / to look down at from a height / bird's-eye view / to survey

Parts:

fǔ - bow down / face down / to look down / bend over / to stoop / condescend / deign / be kind enough to

kàn - overlook / to look down from a height / to spy on something / peep / to watch

*Note: Two variants of the first character are 俛 and 頽 A variant of the second character is 矚

凌駕

March 12, 2013

Japanese Romaji: ryouga

Japanese Meaning: excelling / exceed / surpassing / outdoing / superior

Parts:

ryou(shino) - defy / surpass / to slight / tide over / endure / stave off / keep (rain) out

ga(ka) - hitch up an animal / vehicle / palanquin / litter / bier

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word can also be written as 陵駕

Chinese Pinyin: língjià

Chinese Meaning: to be above / to place above / to ride high / to rise above others / to outstrip /
overrunning / overtop

Parts:

líng - to approach / to rise high / to ride / soar / traverse / pure / virtuous / to insult / maltreat / throw
one's weight around / thick ice

jià - to harness / to draw (a cart, etc.) / to yoke / to control / to drive / to pilot / to fly (a plane) / to sail /
to ride / a cart / carriage / vehicle / your good self / (honorific) you / emperor / prefixed word denoting
respect

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 凌

熔融

March 13, 2013

Japanese Romaji: youyuu

Japanese Meaning: melting / fusion

Parts:

you(to) - fuse / melt

yuu(to, do) - dissolve / melt

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word can also be written as 溶融

Chinese Pinyin: róngróng

Chinese Meaning: to melt / to fuse

Parts:

róng - melt / to smelt / to fuse / weld / to mold

róng - melt / thaw / fuse / blend / merge / harmonize / harmonious / mild / (of money) circulate

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 鎔

浪漫

March 14, 2013

Japanese Romaji: rouman / roman

Japanese Meaning: romance (i.e. Arthurian romances) / novel / romance

Parts:

rou(ro, nami) - billows / waves / wandering

man(sozo) - cartoon / corrupt / involuntarily / in spite of oneself

Chinese Pinyin: làngmàn

Chinese Meaning: romantic / romance

Parts:

làng - wave / billows / breaker / something resembling waves / unrestrained / reckless / be rash / dissipated / dissolute / debauched / wasteful

màn - free / casual / unrestrained / be all over the place / be everywhere / to inundate / overflow of water / brim over / to flood / spreading / spread all over / vast / vague / endless / boundless / separate / blemish

*Note 1: this word is derived from the French word “roman”. The English word “romance” can refer to either stories of love or stories of adventure and often relates to the era of Romanticism in Europe.

*Note 2: two variants of the second character are 漫 and 濶

雀斑

March 15, 2013

Japanese Romaji: sobakasu

Japanese Meaning: freckles

Parts:

jaku(suzume, zaku, jan) - sparrow / talkative person / knowledgeable person

han(fu, buchi, madara, mura, pan) - spots / speck / speckles / mottles / patches / blemish / unevenness / inconsistency / irregularity

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written in hiragana or katakana

*Note 2: 雲雀 (skylark) is read as “hibari”

Chinese Pinyin: quèbān

Chinese Meaning: freckles

Parts:

què(qiǎo, qiāo) - sparrow / small bird (sparrows, chickadees, etc.) / freckle / lentigo

bān - spot / speck / speckle / freckle / mottled / stain / colored patch / spotted / stripe / striped / specked / variegated

俗称/稱

March 16, 2013

Japanese Romaji: zokushou

Japanese Meaning: common name / popular name

Parts:

zoku - common / popular / local manners / modern customs / layman (especially as opposed to a Buddhist monk) / laity / man of the world / common man / the world / worldliness / mundane things / vulgar / low

shou(tata, tona) - admire / praise / fame / reputation / name / title / appellation

Chinese Pinyin: sùchēng

Chinese Meaning: ordinary name / popular name / common name / commonly referred to as / common term / commonly known as

Parts:

sù - social customs / convention / habit / popular / common / current / coarse / vulgar / unrefined / tasteless / secular / mundane / layman

chēng(chèn, chèng) - to state / to say / to tell / to address / to name / to call / name / appellation / brand / to claim / to report / to declare / offer as an excuse (as illness) / to weigh / measure weight / to praise / speak laudatory words / take up (arms, etc.) / to fit / proper / suitable / well-matched / symmetrical / be equal to / corresponding to / balanced / suitable / steelyard / weighing machine

*Note: a variant of the first character is 𠂇 Another variant of the second character is 稱 In Chinese, the second character is a variant of 秤

僥倖

March 17, 2013

Japanese Romaji: gyoukou

Japanese Meaning: fortuitous / luck / windfall / godsend / good fortune

Parts:

gyou - luck / seek / desire

kou - happiness / luck

Chinese Pinyin: jiǎoxìng

Chinese Meaning: luckily / by a fluke / by luck or chance

Parts:

jiǎo - by mere luck / be lucky / by chance

xìng - lucky / fortunate / dote on / to spoil / trusted / intimate / (of the emperor) to visit

*Note 1: The second character is also a variant of 幸

*Note 2: In Chinese, this word can also be written as 徼倖 or 徼幸

甘蔗

March 18, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kansho

Japanese Meaning: sugar cane / sugarcane

Parts:

kan(ama, uma) - sugary / sweet / pamper / coax / be content

sho(sha) - sugar cane

Chinese Pinyin: gānzhè

Chinese Meaning: sugar cane / sugarcane

Parts:

gān - sweet / sweetness / tasty / delicious / pleasant / satisfactory / timely / willing / readily / accepting
of something (outcome, situation, etc.) / of one's own accord

zhè - sugar cane

飘逸/逸

March 19, 2013

Japanese Romaji: hyouitsu

Japanese Meaning: happy-go-lucky / easygoing / unconventional / light

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 暢快 (chàngkuài)

Parts:

hyou - wave / turn over

itsu(so, hagu, haya, ichi) - deviate / diverge / elude / evade / parry / idleness / leisure / miss the mark

Chinese Pinyin: piāoyì

Chinese Meaning: elegant / graceful / stately / to drift gracefully / to float

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 優美 (yuubi)

Parts:

piāo - to float (in the air) / drift / flutter / glide / hover / self-satisfied / complacent / whirlwind / cyclone

yì - leisurely / carefree / idle / to escape / flee / break loose / run away / reclusive / lost / having disappeared / outstanding / surpass / excel / unparalleled

*Note: a variant of the first character is 颯 A Chinese variant of the second character is 軼

胆囊/膽囊

March 20, 2013

Japanese Romaji: tan'nou

Japanese Meaning: gall bladder

Parts:

tan(kimo, gimo) - gall bladder / liver / innards / courage / spirit / nerve / pluck / guts (to do something)

nou(fukuro) - bag / sack / pouch / purse / skin of an orange (and other like fruits) / dead end / plot of land surrounded by water

*Note 1: 海胆 (sea urchin) is read as "uni"

Chinese Pinyin: dǎnnáng

Chinese Meaning: gall bladder

Parts:

dǎn - gall bladder / the gall / the nerve / courage / bravery / guts / inner container (of tire, basketball, etc.)

náng - bag / sack / purse / pocket (for money) / put in a bag

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 3: another variant of the first character is 膽

貪婪

March 21, 2013

Japanese Romaji: donran

Japanese Meaning: greed / avarice / covetousness

Parts:

don(musabo, tan) - covet / indulge in

ran - covet

Chinese Pinyin: tānlán

Chinese Meaning: greed / avarice / covetousness / cupidity / rapacious / insatiable / avid

Parts:

tān - covet / covetous / greedy / to have a voracious desire for / desire for more than one's rightful share / corrupt / hope for / wish for / probe for / search for

lán - avaricious / covet / covetous / greedy

*Note: a variant of the second character is 憐

併呑/吞

March 22, 2013

Japanese Romaji: heidon

Japanese Meaning: annexation / merger / swallowing up

Parts:

hei(awa, pei) - join / unite / get together / collective

don(no, non) - drink

Chinese Pinyin: bìngtūn

Chinese Meaning: annexation / merger / swallowing up

Parts:

bìng - to combine / merge / incorporate / to join / amalgamate / to annex

tūn - to swallow / absorb / to take / to annex / engulf / gulp

*Note: 2 variants of the first character are 併 and 并

巨匠

March 23, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kyoshou

Japanese Meaning: a great master (of an art) / maestro / virtuoso / master hand

Parts:

kyo(ko) - big / gigantic / great / large

shou(takumi, jou) - artisan / carpenter / workman / mechanic / craft / skill / means / idea

Chinese Pinyin: jùjiàng

Chinese Meaning: master craftsman / maestro / expert / leading figure (in the literary, painting, etc. world)

Parts:

jù - very large / huge / tremendous / gigantic / colossal / immense / great / mega / chief

jiàng - craftsman / artisan / skilled workman

*Note: a variant of the first character is 鉅 A variant of the second character is 匠

坐禪/禪

March 24, 2013

Japanese Romaji: zazen

Japanese Meaning: zazen (seated Zen meditation, usually in a cross-legged position)

Parts:

za(suwa, gura) - sit

zen - Zen (Buddhism) / silent meditation

*Note 1: In Japanese, this word can also be written as 座禪

Chinese Pinyin: zuòchán

Chinese Meaning: zazen (seated Zen meditation, usually in a cross-legged position) / to sit in deep meditation / to meditate

Parts:

zuò - to sit / to take a seat / to take (a bus, airplane, train, etc.) / to ride / travel by / kneel / reach / have its back towards (said of a building) / to bear fruit / get (profit, etc.) without work

chán(shàn) - Zen (Buddhism) / meditation / intense contemplation / to level ground for altar / to abdicate

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 3: the first character is a variant of 座

借款

March 25, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shakkan

Japanese Meaning: (international) loan / a credit

Japanese to Chinese Translation: see note 1

Parts:

shaku(ka, ga) - borrow / rent

kan - article / section / goodwill / friendship / collusion

Chinese Pinyin: jièkuǎn

Chinese Meaning: loan / to borrow money / to ask for a loan

Parts:

jiè - to borrow / to lend / to loan / by means of / make pretext of / make use of / take advantage of / to take (an opportunity)

kuǎn - article / section / item / clause / paragraph / funds / sum of money / pattern / style / design / fashion / entertain / treat cordially / signature / inscription (on letter, painting, etc.) / sincere / wholehearted / hearty / leisurely / slow / deliberate / knock (at a door) / counter for versions or models (e.g. of a device, software, etc.), type, kind, suit

*Note 1: in Japanese, this term is usually used in the context of international financial relations, whereas the Chinese term is more general.

*Note 2: The first character is also the simplified Chinese version of 藉. Two variants of the second character are 欸 and 窠.

招聘

March 26, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shouhei

Japanese Meaning: invitation / offer a person a post / call on (somebody to do) / hiring / employment

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 邀請 (yāoqǐng)

Parts:

shou(mane) - invite / summon / beckon / engage

hei - invite

Chinese Pinyin: zhāopìn

Chinese Meaning: recruitment / hiring / to invite applications for a job / to advertise for office vacancies

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 募集 (boshuu)

Parts:

zhāo - to beckon (with one's hand) / to summon / to recruit / raise (an army, capital, etc.) / to provoke / incite / to incur / invite / to levy / cause / to effect / entice / induce / to welcome / to receive / to infect / contagious / infectious / target / bull's eye / a move (chess) / a maneuver / device / trick / to confess / to admit / poster / notice / signboard / counter for moves or blows (especially in Martial arts)

pìn - to engage (a teacher, etc.) / to hire / to employ / invite for service / to betroth / betrothal gift / to get married (of a woman) / be married off / visit a state as an envoy

*Note: this term has a similar meaning in Japanese and Chinese, but the Japanese meaning is closer to "inviting someone specific to take on a role" whereas the Chinese meaning is closer to "inviting people to try applying for one or more positions".

曾孫/曾

March 27, 2013

Japanese Romaji: souson / himago

Japanese Meaning: great-grandchild / great-grandchildren / great-grandson

Parts:

sou(hi, hii, so, zo) - great- (i.e. great-grandson, great-grandmother, etc.) / before / formerly / ex- / ever / never / once

son(mago) - grandchild / descendant

Chinese Pinyin: zēngsūn

Chinese Meaning: great-grandchild / great-grandchildren / great-grandson

Parts:

zēng(céng) - great- (i.e. great-grandson, great-grandmother, etc.) / once / already / ever (in the past) / former / previously / sign of past / (past-tense marker used before verb or clause)

sūn - grandchild / grandson / descendant

*Note: to differentiate gender, great-granddaughter can be translated to 曾孫娘 (himagomusume) in Japanese and 曾孫女 (zēngsūnnǚ) in Chinese while great-grandson translates into today's word.

鉤脈/礦

March 28, 2013

Japanese Romaji: koumyaku

Japanese Meaning: a vein of ore / a (mineral) deposit / lode / reef / streak

Parts:

kou(aragane) - mineral / ore

myaku - vein / pulse / hope

Chinese Pinyin: kuàngmài

Chinese Meaning: a vein of ore / an ore lode

Parts:

kuàng - mineral / ore / a deposit / a mine / pit / quarry

mài(mò) - blood vessels / arteries / veins / vein (on a leaf, insect wing, etc.) / pulse / blood-vessel-like network (mountain range, insect wings, etc.) / affectionate / amorous / loving

*Note: 5 more variants of the first character are 鉤 鑛 礦 𠂇 𠂈 A variant of the second character is 脈

閾値/値

March 29, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shikiichi / ikichi

Japanese Meaning: threshold (amount, dose, etc.)

Parts:

shikii(iki) - threshold / liminal threshold between the exterior and the interior of a house

chi(atai, ne) - price / cost / value / worth / merit / level / count / number / variable (computer programming)

Chinese Pinyin: yùzhí

Chinese Meaning: threshold

Parts:

yù - threshold / separated / confined

zhí - price / cost / value / (to be) worth / merit / deserve / deserving / worthwhile / to happen to / chance to / to be on duty / take turn (at something)

*Note: “threshold” in this sense means “the minimum amount of stimulus required to achieve some kind of reaction in something.”

獄吏

March 30, 2013

Japanese Romaji: gokuri

Japanese Meaning: jailer / gaoler

Parts:

goku - jail / prison / gaol

ri - an official / officer

Chinese Pinyin: yùlì

Chinese Meaning: (archaic) a jailer / prison guard / warden / superintendent of a prison

Parts:

yù - prison / jail / gaol / (criminal) case / lawsuit

lì - minor government official or functionary (archaic) / magistrate / petty clerk / mandarin (bureaucrat)

溝渠

March 31, 2013

Japanese Romaji: koukyo

Japanese Meaning: a ditch / sewer / canal

Parts:

kou(mizo, dobu) - a ditch / a drain / gutter / groove / trench / sewer / gulf / gap / 10^32

kyo - canal / ditch / lock

Chinese Pinyin: gōuqú

Chinese Meaning: a ditch / channel / moat / irrigation canal / a drain / a channel / a gutter / narrow waterway / aqueduct

Parts:

gōu - a ditch / a drain / channel / narrow waterway / gutter / groove / furrow / trench / rut / gully / ravine / valley

qú(jù) - stream / canal / a drain / a ditch / channel / gutter / great / deep / big / he / she / it / how can it be that?

侵蝕

April 1, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shinshoku

Japanese Meaning: invade (territory) / encroachment / erosion / corrosion

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 侵略 (qīnlüè) for the meaning of “invade”

Parts:

shin(oka) - invade / raid / encroach / trespass / violate

shoku(mushiba) - eclipse (solar, lunar, etc.) / occultation / erosion / corrosion / be defective

*Note: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as 侵食 Its meanings of “erosion” or “corrosion” are interchangeable with 浸食/浸蝕

Chinese Pinyin: qīnshí

Chinese Meaning: erosion / corrosion / erode / corrode / to encroach / to eat into gradually

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 浸食 (shinshoku)

Parts:

qīn - to invade / to encroach upon / to raid / intrude into / to infringe / to approach / draw near / move gradually

shí - to nibble away / erosion / eat slowly / eclipse (solar, lunar, etc.)

浸漬

April 2, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shinseki / shinshi

Japanese Meaning: dipping / soaking / immersing

Parts:

shin(shi, tsu, hita, bita) - to dip / to dunk / to steep / to soak / immersed / moisten / wet

seki(shi, tsu, dzu) - moisten / pickling / soak / to steep

Chinese Pinyin: jìnzì

Chinese Meaning: to soak / be soaked / macerate

Parts:

jìn - to immerse / to soak / to dip / to saturate / to steep / percolate / gradually

zì - to soak / to steep / to rot / to be stained / to be soiled / dye / stain / smear / sludge / sodden / floodwater

絢爛

April 3, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kenran

Japanese Meaning: gorgeous / brilliant / dazzling / gaudy / flowery (speech)

Parts:

ken(aya) - kimono design

ran(tada) - brilliant / bright / be sore / bleary / fester / inflamed

Chinese Pinyin: xuànlàn

Chinese Meaning: gorgeous / glittering / splendid / dazzling / bright and brilliant

Parts:

xuàn - adorned / swift / gorgeous / brilliant / variegated

làn - bright / bright-colored / brilliant / soft / mushy / well-cooked and soft / pappy / to rot / decomposed / rotten / spoiled / decayed / worn-out / torn / broken / chaotic / messy / disorderly / jumbled / utterly / thoroughly / completely / (Cantonese) cheesy, crummy, lacking style / (Cantonese) addicted to, crave for

*Note: a variant of the second character is 爛. Another variant is 爛, which is also a separate Japanese character.

脊椎

April 4, 2013

Japanese Romaji: sekitsui

Japanese Meaning: backbone / spine / vertebral column

Parts:

seki(se, sei) - height / stature / back (of the body) / spine / reverse / rear side / ridge (of a mountain)

tsui(shii) - mallet / oak / any beech tree of genus Castanopsis

Chinese Pinyin: jǐzhūi

Chinese Meaning: backbone / spine / vertebra

Parts:

jǐ(jí) - spine / back / backbone / spinal column / ridge / roof

zhūi(chuí) - spine / vertebra / hammer / mallet

*Note: a variant of the second character is 槌

糊塗

April 5, 2013

Japanese Romaji: koto

Japanese Meaning: covering up (mistakes, etc.) / glossing over / patch up / hiding the truth / cheat / deception

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 掩蓋(yǎngài)

Parts:

ko(nori) - glue / paste / starch / sizing

to(nu, mabu, mami) - to paint / plaster / smear / daub / coating

Chinese Pinyin: hútu / hútú

Chinese Meaning: mixed-up / muddled / confused / bewildered / silly / stupid / foolish

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 混乱 (konran) for "confused", ばかな (bakana) for "silly"

Parts:

hú(hù) - to stick on with paste / paste / sticky thing / muddled / confused / foolish / plaster / put a plaster on / scorched / deceive / palm off / be slipshod / cream / mush (as food)

tu(tú) - to apply (paint, etc.) / to smear / to spread (paint, etc.) / to paint / to daub / to blot out / erase / obliterate / to scribble / to scrawl / (literary) mud / shoal / street

*Note 1: in Chinese, this word can also be written as 胡塗

*Note 2: the first character is also the simplified Chinese version of 餬 A variant of the first character is 粘

汎濫/泛

April 6, 2013

Japanese Romaji: hanran

Japanese Meaning: overflowing / flood

Parts:

han - spread out / wide

ran(mida) - overflow / excessive / spread out

Chinese Pinyin: fànlàn

Chinese Meaning: overflow (the banks) / to be in flood / to inundate / to spread unchecked / to spread far and wide

Parts:

fàn - to float / to drift about / go boating / careless / reckless / to be suffused with (color) / general /

non-specific / extensive / to flood / overflow / inundate / superficial / shallow / skin-deep / pan- (prefix)

làn - to flood / overflowing / inundation / excessive / indiscriminate / do things without plans / reckless /

practice no self-restraint / give way to unbridled license / abuse (one's power, influence, etc.) / false /

not true / superfluous words or expressions

*Note 1: the second version of the first character is a traditional Chinese variant as well as the simplified Chinese form of 汎 and 汎

*Note 2: in Chinese, this word can also be written as 汎濫

堅牢

April 7, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kenrou

Japanese Meaning: strong / solid / durable / stout / robust

Parts:

ken(kata, gata) - hard / solid / tough / tight / strict / reliable

rou - hardness / jail / prison / gaol

Chinese Pinyin: jiānláo

Chinese Meaning: strong / firm / durable / heavily defended (fortress)

Parts:

jiān - strong / solid / hard / firm / steadfastly / unyielding / resolute / staunchly / fortification /
stronghold

láo - firm / sturdy / durable / secure / fast / stable / pen (for animals) / fold (for animals) / sacrifice /
prison / jail / gaol

*Note: a variant of the second character is 牽

捷徑/徑

April 8, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shoukei

Japanese Meaning: shortcut / expedient

Parts:

shou - fast / victory

kei - diameter / path / method

Chinese Pinyin: jiéjìng

Chinese Meaning: a shortcut / a snap course

Parts:

jié - victory / triumph / win / quick / nimble / prompt / swift / Czech (Republic)

jìng - footpath / track / narrow path / trail / diameter / radial / means / way / road / straight / directly / direct / straightaway

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: A variant of the first character is 捷 A variant of the second character is 徑

亢奮

April 9, 2013

Japanese Romaji: koufun

Japanese Meaning: excitement / stimulation / agitation / arousal

Parts:

kou - high spirits

fun(furu, pun) - be invigorated / flourish / stirred up

Chinese Pinyin: kàngfèn

Chinese Meaning: excited / stimulated

Parts:

kàng - high / proud / overbearing / indomitable / skilled / excessive / extreme / violent / a person's neck

fèn - exert oneself / strive / exert effort / act vigorously / arouse / raise / lift / wave / spread and flutter the wings

*Note: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as 興奮 and alternatively as 昂奮. In Chinese, there are similar alternatives, but the readings change to 興奮 (xīngfèn) and 昂奮 (ángfèn).

莞爾

April 10, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kanji

Japanese Meaning: smiling

Parts:

kan - smiling / reed used to cover tatami

ji(ore, shika, nanji, ni) - (archaic) thou / you / second person / like that / as such / yeah / uh-huh

Chinese Pinyin: wǎn'ěr

Chinese Meaning: smiling / with a smile

Parts:

wǎn(guān, guǎn) - smile / Skimmia japonica / club-rush / a kind of aquatic herb / Scirpus lacustris /

Dongguan, a county in Guangdong province

ěr - thus / so / like that / you / thou / that / this / those / these / near / only / final particle / used in transliteration

*Note: 6 variants of the second character are 尔 你 尔 尔 尔 尔

慙愧/慚

April 11, 2013

Japanese Romaji: zanki

Japanese Meaning: (feeling of) shame

Parts:

zan(haji) - ashamed / humiliated / shameful

ki(haji) - feel ashamed / shy

Chinese Pinyin: cánguì

Chinese Meaning: ashamed

Parts:

cán - ashamed / humiliated / shameful / embarrassed / shamefaced

kuì - ashamed / conscience-stricken / abashed / have a guilty conscience

*Note: 2 variants of the second character are 愧 and 隤

駱駝

April 11, 2013

Japanese Romaji: rakuda

Japanese Meaning: camel

Parts:

raku - white horse

da - hunchback / load

* Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as ラクダ

Chinese Pinyin: luòtuo / luòtuó

Chinese Meaning: camel / (colloquial) blockhead / ninny

Parts:

luò - camel / white horse with a black mane (archaic)

tuo(tuó) - hump / hunchbacked / to carry on the back / camel

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 駝

壮丁/壯

April 12, 2013

Japanese Romaji: soutei

Japanese Meaning: youth / young man who has reached adulthood (conscription age)

Parts:

sou - vibrancy / strength / bravery / manliness / manhood / (especially of men) one's prime (around 30) / prosperity / robust

tei(hinoto, chou, tou) - street / town / ward / even number / counter for sheets, pages, leaves, etc. / counter for blocks of tofu or a cake of something / counter for servings in a restaurant / counter for long and narrow things such as guns, scissors, spades, hoes, ink sticks, palanquins, candles, jinrikishas, shamisen, oars, tools, etc. / 109.09 m / fourth sign of the Chinese calendar / fourth in rank

*Note 1: in Japanese, the reading of 丁稚 (apprentice) is "detchi"

Chinese Pinyin: zhuàngdīng

Chinese Meaning: an able-bodied man (capable of fighting in a war) / an adult fit for military service

Parts:

zhuàng - to strengthen / make better / enhance / strong / robust / vigorous / sturdy / big / large / great / magnificent / grand / splendid / portly / stout / the prime of one's life / Zhuang ethnic group of Guangxi, the PRC's second most numerous ethnic group

dīng - male adult / man / robust / vigorous / population / members of a family / manual worker / attendant / fourth in order / fourth in a list / grade D / cubes (of food, meat, vegetables, etc.) / small / tiny bit / T-shaped / tinkling sound / butyl / fourth sign of the Chinese calendar

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 3: 2 more variants of the first character are 儻 and 獐

蒲鉾

April 12, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kamaboko

Japanese Meaning: kamaboko (traditional Japanese fishcake made with surimi, often used in soups)

Parts:

kama(kaba, gama, fu, bu, ho) - bulrush / cattail / reed mace / flag

boko(hoko) - long-handled Chinese spear / halberd / lance / spike / weapon / arms / grip of a bow / festival float

Chinese Pinyin: púmóu

Chinese Meaning: kamaboko (traditional Japanese fishcake made with surimi, often used in soups)

Parts:

pú - bulrush / cattail / reed mace / type of rush / vine / plant of genus calamus

móu - spear

糧秣

April 13, 2013

Japanese Romaji: ryoumatsu

Japanese Meaning: military provisions and cavalry horse fodder

Parts:

ryou(kate, rou) - food / bread / provisions

matsu(magusa) - fodder

Chinese Pinyin: liángmò

Chinese Meaning: provisions (e.g. military) / military food supplies / forage / fodder

Parts:

liáng - grain / food / provisions / agricultural tax paid in grain / (slang) salary

mò - fodder / horse feed / feed a horse with grain

蛞蝓

April 13, 2013

Japanese Romaji: namekuji

Japanese Meaning: slug

Parts:

name(katsu) - kind of slug

kuji(yu) - slug / snail

*Note: in Japanese, this word is commonly written as ナメクジ or なめくじ

Chinese Pinyin: kuòyú

Chinese Meaning: slug

Parts:

kuò - snail / slug / mole cricket

yú - snail

雌蕊

April 14, 2013

Japanese Romaji: meshibe / shizui

Japanese Meaning: pistil (of plants)

Parts:

me(mesu, men, shi) - female (animal) / feminine

shibe(zui) - pistil (of a flower) / stamen (of a flower)

Chinese Pinyin: círuǐ

Chinese Meaning: pistil (of plants)

Parts:

cí(cǐ) - female (animal) / feminine / woman-like / gentle / soft

ruǐ - pistil (of a flower) / stamen (of a flower) / unopened flowers / flower buds

*Note 1: the first character is usually used to refer to female animals in an academic context and never for humans. The equivalent for males is 雄

*Note 2: 2 variants of the second character are 蕊 and 藥

琥珀

April 14, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kohaku

Japanese Meaning: amber

Parts:

ko - jewelled utensil

haku - amber

Chinese Pinyin: hǔpò

Chinese Meaning: amber

Parts:

hǔ - amber / jewel in shape of tiger

pò - amber

狼藉

April 15, 2013

Japanese Romaji: rouzeki

Japanese Meaning: violence / outrage / riot / confusion / disorder

Parts:

rou(ookami) - wolf

zeki(sha) - borrow / lend / carpet / make excuses / spread out

*Note 1: 狼煙 (beacon) has the reading of “noroshi”

Chinese Pinyin: lángjí

Chinese Meaning: in a mess / scattered about / in total disorder or disarray / in pandemonium

Parts:

láng - wolf / heartless, cruel person / cruel and heartless / cunning and crafty

jí(jiè) - to insult / to walk all over (somebody) / tread on / rely on / pretext / disorderly / mixed / confused / in a muddle / sleeping mat / mat / pad / mattress / cushion / place something underneath / to placate

*Note2: the second character is also a variant of 借

檸檬

April 15, 2013

Japanese Romaji: remon

Japanese Meaning: lemon

Parts:

re - lemon tree

mon - lemon tree

*Note: in Japanese, this word is usually written as レモン

Chinese Pinyin: níngméng

Chinese Meaning: lemon

Parts:

níng - lemon

méng - lemon / type of locust or acacia

淘汰

April 16, 2013

Japanese Romaji: touta

Japanese Meaning: selection / to screen / reduce / weeding out / culling out / sift / elimination (e.g. of unneeded employees) / curtailment / natural selection

Parts:

tou - select

ta(da) - select / luxury

Chinese Pinyin: táotài

Chinese Meaning: to wash out / elimination (by selection of inferior contestants, goods, etc.) / to weed out / natural selection / to knock out (in competition) / to die out / to phase out / fall into disuse

Parts:

táo - to wash in sieve / to clean out / scour / weed out / to cleanse / to eliminate / to dredge / wash away the impurities / tax one's energy / naughty / mischievous

tài - to discard / to eliminate / remove / sift / scour / wash out / excessive

蜥蜴

April 16, 2013

Japanese Romaji: tokage

Japanese Meaning: lizard

Parts:

to(seki) - lizard

kage(eki) - lizard

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as トカゲ

Chinese Pinyin: xīyì

Chinese Meaning: lizard

Parts:

xī - lizard / shorty (contemptuous term for a short person) / chameleon / Eumeces latiscutatus

yì - lizard / chameleon / Eumeces latiscutatus

*Note 2: a Chinese variant of this word is 蜥易

褒貶

April 17, 2013

Japanese Romaji: houhen

Japanese Meaning: praise and censure / criticism

Parts:

hou(ho, bo) - extol / praise

hen(otoshi, kena) - degrade

Chinese Pinyin: bāobiǎn

Chinese Meaning: to appraise / to pass judgment on / to pass judgement on / to praise and disparage / criticism / to speak ill of / praise and censure / appraisal

Parts:

bāo - to praise / to commend / compliment / to honor / to cite / (of clothes) large or loose

biǎn - to diminish / to demote / degrade / relegate / to decrease / to reduce (in value) / to devalue / to depreciate / to lower / to disparage / to censure / criticize / to belittle / defame

*Note: 3 variants of the first character are 褒 褒 𡗗

浣熊

April 17, 2013

Japanese Romaji: araguma

Japanese Meaning: raccoon

Parts:

arai(kan) - wash

guma(kuma, yuu) - a bear

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as アライグマ or 洗い熊

Chinese Pinyin: huànxiónɡ

Chinese Meaning: raccoon

Parts:

huàn(huǎn, wǎn) - to wash / to rinse / ten day period / any of three 10-day divisions of a month (Tang Dynasty)

xiónɡ - a bear / to scold / to rebuke / upbraid / brilliant light / to shine brightly / bright

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 潑

梗塞

April 18, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kousoku

Japanese Meaning: blocking / stoppage / blockage / tightness / infarction

Parts:

kou(kyou) - close up / flower stem / for the most part

soku(se, fusa, sai) - to block / obstruct / close / to cover / to shut

Chinese Pinyin: gěngsè

Chinese Meaning: to clog / to obstruct / to block / infarction / blockage

Parts:

gěng - branch of plant / stem of flower / stalk / a stick / obstruct / to block / to hinder / straighten up / stiffen up / upright / fair-minded / honest / (Cantonese) stiff, tight, unsmooth / (Cantonese) certainly, definitely, unavoidably

sè(sāi, sài) - to stop up / to block / obstruct / to seal / plug / to stuff / to cope with / to fill / to squeeze in / cram into / jam into / cork / stopper / Serbia / strategic pass / tactical border position / frontier / fortress / strategic stronghold along the frontier

*Note: this word is often used in a medical sense (e.g. “a blocked artery”) and can be used in a figurative sense (e.g. “the words were stuck in my throat”).

松茸

April 18, 2013

Japanese Romaji: matsutake

Japanese Meaning: matsutake (an edible mushroom considered a great delicacy in Japan)

Parts:

matsu(shou) - pine tree / highest (of a three-tier ranking system) / a pine branch decorated for the celebration of New Year

take(kinoko) - mushroom / toadstool

Chinese Pinyin: sōngróng

Chinese Meaning: matsutake (an edible mushroom considered a great delicacy in Japan)

Parts:

sōng - pine tree / fir tree

róng - (of grass or hair) fine / fluffy / fuzzy / soft / thick / downy / buds / sprouts / luxuriant growth / confused / medicines made from antler, ginseng, etc.

*Note: 3 variants of the first character are 松 栢 案 It is also the simplified Chinese version of 鬆

琢磨/琢

April 19, 2013

Japanese Romaji: takuma

Japanese Meaning: polish (jewels) / cultivation (of skills for oneself)

Japanese to Chinese Translation: see note

Parts:

taku - polish

ma(su, to, miga) - brush (teeth) / polish / scour / grind / improve

Chinese Pinyin: zhuómó / zuómo

Chinese Meaning: to carve and polish (jewels, jade, etc.) / to polish and refine (a literary work, an idea, etc.) / to study and improve / to mold (oneself) / to ponder over / to mull over / to consider / think deeply / to think through / turn something over in one's mind

Chinese to Japanese Translation: see note

Parts:

zhuó(zuó) - to cut (gems, jade, etc.) / to carve / to chisel / polish / improve / refine (literary works)

mó(mo, mò) - to rub / to grind / to polish / to sharpen / to wear down / wear out / obliterate / to die out / to waste time / suffering / obstacle / setback / to pester / to insist / grindstone / to mill / millstones / to turn round / move

*Note: in general, this word is used to refer to the polishing or refinement of something, whether it is something physical (usually jewels, etc.) or figurative (ideas, skills, plans, theories, etc.) In Chinese, the reading "zuómo" has the meaning of "to think deeply and carefully about something", which can be translated to 熟考 (jukkou) in Japanese.

蟋蟀

April 19, 2013

Japanese Romaji: koorogi

Japanese Meaning: cricket (insect)

Parts:

ko(shitsu) - cricket / grasshopper

orogi(shitsu) - cricket / grasshopper

*Note: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as コオロギ

Chinese Pinyin: xīshuài

Chinese Meaning: cricket (insect)

Parts:

xī - cricket

shuài - cricket

股肱

April 20, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kokou

Japanese Meaning: one's right-hand man / one's trusted henchman

Parts:

ko(mata, momo) - thigh / femoral / crotch / crutch / groin / fork (in a tree, road, river, etc.) / tines (of a fork)

kou(hiji) - elbow / arm / talent / ability

Chinese Pinyin: gǔgōng

Chinese Meaning: trusted aide / a right-hand man / top aides

Parts:

gǔ - thigh / haunches / hips / rump / a share / stock / portion / section / department / part / whiff / puff / blast (of hot air) / a bunch or a band (of bandits) / counter for smells, electric currents, spirals, etc.

gōng - upper arm / arm / forearm

*Note: a variant of the first character is 股 A variant of the second character is 肱

杏仁

April 20, 2013

Japanese Romaji: an'nin / kyounin

Japanese Meaning: apricot seed / apricot kernel

Parts:

an(anzu, kyou, chou, nan) - apricot

nin(jin, ni) - kernel / nucleolus / benevolence / consideration / compassion / humanity / charity / virtue / man / human

Chinese Pinyin: xìngrén

Chinese Meaning: apricot seed / apricot kernel / almond

Chinese to Japanese Translation: アーモンド (aamondo) for "almond"

Parts:

xìng - apricot / apricot kernels / apricot flowers / almond

rén - kernel / core / humane / humanity / benevolence / kindness / mercy / merciful / charity / compassionate / humanitarian (policy, government, etc.) / a person of great virtue / respectable / esteemed / sensitive to external stimuli

*Note: due to a translation error by the Almond Board of California (ABC) in 1970, the Chinese term is now used for "almond" when it literally means "apricot kernel", or "the seed of an apricot". Apricot kernels from Asia are especially sweeter, not as poisonous, and used in food such as 杏仁豆腐 (almond jelly). It may be substituted for almonds and, specifically in China, have been used in traditional medicine. A more accurate Chinese translation for "almond" is 巴旦木 (bādànmù), which was adopted by the ABC in December of 2012, although xìngrén is still more commonly used.

Sources:

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沖縄/縄

April 21, 2013

Japanese Romaji: okinawa

Japanese Meaning: Okinawa, Japan

Parts:

oki(chuu) - open sea / offing / rise high into the sky

nawa(jou) - cord / rope / policeman's rope

Chinese Pinyin: chōngshéng

Chinese Meaning: Okinawa, Japan

Parts:

chōng - to mix with water / pour / to infuse / to steep / make drinks / to rinse / to flush / wash way / to develop (a film) / to rise in the air / soar / rise rapidly / shoot up / (of water) to dash against / to clash with / to collide with / neutralise / offset / make void

shéng - rope / string / cord / measure / criterion / gauge / rule / control / restrain / restrict

*Note 1: Okinawa has its own dialect which is very different from mainland Japan's. The Okinawan word for "Okinawa" is うちなあ (uchinaa)

*Note 2: the picture is of a woman wearing a bingata kimono

倫敦

April 21, 2013

Japanese Romaji: rondon

Japanese Meaning: London, England

Parts:

ron(rin) - ethics / companion

don(ton) - industry / kindness

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is usually written as ロンドン

Chinese Pinyin: lúndūn

Chinese Meaning: London, England

Parts:

lún - normal human relationships / ethics / order / logic / coherence / comparison / peer / match /
classification / regular / ordinary / choose / choice

dūn - kind-hearted / esteem / honest / candid / sincere / promote / deepen / strengthen / (archaic)
grain container or receptacle

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 敦

沮喪

April 22, 2013

Japanese Romaji: sosou

Japanese Meaning: loss of spirit / dejection

Parts:

so(haba) - defeated / dejected / prevent / stop

sou(mo) - mourning / miss

*Note: in Japanese, this word can also be written as 阻喪

Chinese Pinyin: jǔsàng

Chinese Meaning: dispirited / dejected / dismayed / depressed / discouraged / disappointed / crestfallen / despondent / downcast / low-spirited

Parts:

jǔ - defeated / dejected / turn gloomy / to destroy / to stop / prevent / abate / marshy / damp / swampy

sàng(sāng) - to lose / be deprived of / to flee / to be defeated / to die / disappointed / disheartened / to make funeral arrangements / to be in mourning / mourn / funeral / things related to death

邂逅

April 22, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kaikou

Japanese Meaning: chance meeting

Parts:

kai - meet unexpectedly

kou - meet

Chinese Pinyin: xièhòu

Chinese Meaning: to meet by chance / to meet accidentally / to meet (a relative, friend, etc.)
unexpectedly / to run into somebody / chance encounter

Parts:

xiè - to meet unexpectedly / unexpected meeting / encounter by / meet somebody by chance / chance
meeting

hòu - to meet unexpectedly / come across / run into

吝嗇

April 23, 2013

Japanese Romaji: rinshoku

Japanese Meaning: stinginess / miser / miserliness / selfishness

Parts:

rin(shiwa, yabusa) - miserly / stingy / sparing

shoku - miserly / stingy / sparing

*Note 1: in Japanese, when this word is used in other compounds, the reading changes to “kechi” (e.g. 吝嗇ん坊 kechinbou, 吝嗇臭い kechikusai), except for 吝嗇家 (rinshokuka). They all mean “stingy person”, “stinginess”, and “miser” respectively.

Chinese Pinyin: lǐnsè

Chinese Meaning: stingy / mean / miserly / niggardly / parsimonious

Parts:

lìn - stingy / mean / miserly / parsimonious

sè - stingy / mean / miserly / thrifty / stopped up / constipated

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 慳

珊瑚

April 23, 2013

Japanese Romaji: sango

Japanese Meaning: coral

Parts:

san - loneliness / stagger

go - coral / ancestral offering receptacle

Chinese Pinyin: shānhú

Chinese Meaning: coral

Parts:

shān - coral

hú - coral / person of virtue

使役

April 24, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shieki

Japanese Meaning: using / employing / setting to work / enslavement / causative verb

Parts:

shi(tsuka, dzuka) - use / messenger

eki(yaku) - use / duty / role / service / office / post / position / scoring combination (e.g. in card games, etc.) / hand (in card games, etc.) / campaign / drafted labour / war / battle / unpaid work

Chinese Pinyin: shǐyì

Chinese Meaning: to use (an animal or servant) / working (animal) / (beast) of burden / causative form of verbs (especially in the grammar of Japanese, Korean, etc.)

Parts:

shǐ - to make / to cause / to enable / to use / to employ / apply / to send / send on a mission / to order / to instruct somebody to do something / despatch / summon / if / supposing / provided / diplomatic envoy / messenger / ambassador / be sent abroad for official missions

yì - forced labor / corvée / obligatory task / service / military service / to serve / to use as a servant / to enserf / servant (old) / laborer / labourer / war / campaign / battle

肺癌

April 24, 2013

Japanese Romaji: haigan

Japanese Meaning: lung cancer

Parts:

hai(pai) - lung / lungs

gan - cancer / cancerous evil

Chinese Pinyin: fèi'ái

Chinese Meaning: lung cancer

Parts:

fèi - lung / lungs

ái(yán) - cancer / carcinoma / marmoset

誹謗

April 25, 2013

Japanese Romaji: hibou

Japanese Meaning: slander / abuse

Parts:

hi(soshi, hai) - slander / ridicule

bou(soshi) - censure / criticize / disparage / slander

Chinese Pinyin: fěibàng

Chinese Meaning: to slander / to libel / defame / defamation / to calumniate / smear

Parts:

fěi - slander / defame / vilify / condemn / speak evil of

bàng - to slander / libel / to defame / to speak ill of / vilify / smear

蘚苔

April 25, 2013

Japanese Romaji: sentai

Japanese Meaning: moss / bryophyte

Parts:

sen(koke, goke) - moss / short plants resembling moss (including other bryophytes, lichens, very small spermatophytes, etc.)

tai(koke, goke) - lichen / moss

*Note 1: 海苔 (edible seaweed) is read as “nori”

Chinese Pinyin: xiǎntái

Chinese Meaning: moss / lichen

Parts:

xiǎn - moss / lichen / moss on damp walls

tái(tāi) - moss / lichen / liverwort (plant) / coating (of tongue) / fur (of the tongue)

*Note 2: in Chinese, this word is more common with the characters reversed

諮詢

April 26, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shijun

Japanese Meaning: enquiry / inquiry / question / consulting

Parts:

shi(haka) - consult with

jun - consult with

Chinese Pinyin: zīxún

Chinese Meaning: consultation / to consult / to inquire / to seek advice

Parts:

zī - to consult / take counsel / seek advice / confer / communicate in

xún - to ask about / to inquire about / inquire into / enquire / consult

*Note: the first character is a variant of 咨

疣猪/豬

April 26, 2013

Japanese Romaji: iboinoshishi

Japanese Meaning: warthog

Parts:

ibo(yuu) - wart

inoshishi(i,shishi, cho) - wild boar / (archaism) beast (especially one used for its meat, such as a boar or deer)

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is usually written as イボイノシシ

Chinese Pinyin: yóuzhū

Chinese Meaning:

Parts:

yóu - wart / verruca / nodule / papule / tumor / goiter

zhū - hog / pig / swine / wild boar / pigheaded person

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 3: a variant of the first character is 疣 Another variant of the second character is 猪

逍遥/遙

April 27, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shouyou

Japanese Meaning: saunter / wander / ramble / walk

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 漫步 (mànbù), see also note 1

Parts:

shou - loaf (about) / saunter

you(haru) - distant / far off / long ago

Chinese Pinyin: xiāoyáo

Chinese Meaning: to loiter about / to saunter about / free and unfettered / carefree / be at ease / loose

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 自由に (jiyu ni) for the meaning of “free and unfettered”, see also note 1

Parts:

xiāo - leisurely / easy-going / ramble / stroll / jaunt / loiter

yáo - distant (in space or time) / remote / far / far away

*Note 1: the Japanese meaning literally means “to walk or wander around leisurely and aimlessly” while the Chinese term can include this as well as to figuratively mean “doing something leisurely and/or aimlessly” (e.g. “saunter through life”) or simply “to be free” (e.g. “to party freely”, “an escaped prisoner”, etc.)

*Note 2: the first Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 3: another variant of the second character is 遙

胡瓜

April 27, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kyuuri

Japanese Meaning: cucumber

Parts:

kyu(u, ko, go) - foreign / barbarian / barbarian tribes surrounding ancient China

uri(ka, ke) - melon / gourd

*Note 1: 胡座/胡坐 (sitting cross-legged) is read as “agura”. 南瓜 (pumpkin) is read as “kabocha”.

Chinese Pinyin: húguā

Chinese Meaning: cucumber

Parts:

hú - blunder / reckless / recklessly / foolishly / blindly / stupidly / confusedly / nonsensical / wildly / disorderly / outrageous / (archaic) non-Han people, especially from central Asia / non-Han ethnic tribes in the north and west of China in ancient times / a general name of the northern tribes / introduced from non-Han ethnic groups or from abroad / foreign / what? / why? / how? / when? / long and lasting / to complete a winning hand at mah-jong / alley / lane / chili pepper

guā - melon / gourd / squash / cucumber / (Cantonese slang) die

*Note 2: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as キュウリ In Chinese, this is more commonly known as 黃瓜 (huángguā)

*Note 3: the first character is also the simplified Chinese version of 衡 and 鬍

搭載

April 28, 2013

Japanese Romaji: tousai

Japanese Meaning: loading (on board) / equipping / equipped (with) / built-in / loaded with / mounted with

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 裝備 (zhuāngbèi) for “equipped with”, see also note

Parts:

tou - load (a vehicle) / to board / to ride

sai(no, zai) - to board / to get on / to place / to ride / spread / 10^44

Chinese Pinyin: dāzài

Chinese Meaning: to transport (people, a payload, etc.) / to carry (passengers) / equipped (with) / built-in / loaded with

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 乗客を乗せる (joukyaku o noseru) for “carrying passengers”, see also note

Parts:

dā - to put up (something) / to build (scaffolding) / to construct / to erect / to hang (clothes on a pole) / to rest on / to connect / to join together / to come into contact / to touch / attach to / to arrange in pairs / to match / to add to / to throw in (resources) / to take (boat, train, etc.) / travel by

zài(zǎi) - to carry / to convey / to load / to transport / be loaded with / to hold / to fill up / be all over / and / also / as well as / at the same time / simultaneously / year / to record in writing / write down / publish / 10^44

*Note: this word means to carry or load something in both languages, but the Chinese meaning is limited to people (passengers, etc.) whereas the Japanese term is limited to inanimate payloads (equipment, devices, weapons, etc.) Both languages may also involve things equipped with something else (e.g. computers loaded with a certain type of hardware).

栗鼠

April 28, 2013

Japanese Romaji: risu

Japanese Meaning: squirrel (excluding flying squirrels)

Parts:

ri(kuri, guri, ritsu) - Japanese chestnut / chestnut tree

su(nezumi, nezu, ko, so) - mouse / rat / rodent / dark gray / dark grey / slate (color)

Chinese Pinyin: lishǔ

Chinese Meaning: squirrel (excluding flying squirrels) / chinchilla / chipmunk

Chinese to Japanese Translation: チンチラ (chinchira) for “chinchilla”, シマリス (shimarisu) for “chipmunk”

Parts:

lì - chestnut / chestnut tree / strong and tough / firm / durable / respectful / fearful / awe-inspiring / tremble / dignified / majestic

shǔ - mouse / rat / rodent

*Note 1: a more common word for “squirrel” in Chinese is 松鼠 (sōngshǔ).

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 𪛗 A variant of the second character is 𪛖

*Note 3: the first character is also the simplified Chinese version of 慄

債券

April 29, 2013

Japanese Romaji: saiken

Japanese Meaning: a (financial) bond / a debenture

Parts:

sai - a (financial) bond / debt / loan

ken - ticket / coupon / (financial) bond / certificate

Chinese Pinyin: zhàiquàn

Chinese Meaning: a (financial) bond / a debenture / instrumentalities

Parts:

zhài - debt / loan / liabilities / obligation

quàn - ticket / coupon / voucher / certificate / a (financial) bond / contract / (title) deeds / arch

*Note: a variant of the second character is 券

藍藻

April 29, 2013

Japanese Romaji: ransou

Japanese Meaning: blue-green algae / cyanobacteria

Parts:

ran(ai) - indigo (color) / indigo plant

sou(mo) - seaweed / duckweed / algae / alga

Chinese Pinyin: lánzǎo

Chinese Meaning: blue-green algae / cyanobacteria

Parts:

lán - blue / indigo (color) / indigo plant

zǎo - aquatic grasses / algae / pondweed / elegant / splendid / magnificent / literary embellishment

稀釈/釋

April 30, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kishaku

Japanese Meaning: dilution

Parts:

ki(mare, ke) - dilute (acid) / phenomenal / rare / seldom

shaku(sha, seki) - explanation

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as 希釈

Chinese Pinyin: xīshì

Chinese Meaning: to dilute (liquids) / dilution

Parts:

xī - rare / uncommon / little / unusual / sparse / not dense / scarce / thin / light / not thick / watery /
diluted

shì - to explain / expound / elucidate / interpret / to release / set free / lay down / clear up / dispel /
remove / Buddha / Buddhism / Sakyamuni / monk

*Note 2: the first character is a variant of 希

胼胝

April 30, 2013

Japanese Romaji: tako

Japanese Meaning: a callus / callosity / a corn

Parts:

ta(da, ben) - a callus / a corn

ko(chi) - a callus / chap / crack

Chinese Pinyin: piánzhī

Chinese Meaning: a callus / a corn

Parts:

pián - a callus on hand or foot / calluses

zhī - a callus on hand or foot / a corn

勸説/勸説

May 1, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kanzei

Japanese Meaning: urging / persuasion

Parts:

kan(susu) - advise / recommend / encourage / persuade / offer

zei(to, do, setsu, zetsu) - opinion / rumor / theory

Chinese Pinyin: quànshuō

Chinese Meaning: to persuade / persuasion / to advise

Parts:

quàn - to advise / to urge / recommend / to try to persuade / to exhort / induce / encourage

shuō(shuì) - to speak / to say / to explain / clarify / to talk / utter / opinion / description / narration / statement / explanation / criticise / criticize / to scold / upbraid / to tell off / a talking-to / scolding / a theory / to canvass / to persuade / to convince

牡蠣/蛎

May 1, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kaki

Japanese Meaning: oyster

Parts:

ka(o, osu, bo) - male (animal)

ki(kaki, rei) - oyster

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is usually written as カキ

Chinese Pinyin: mǔlì

Chinese Meaning: oyster

Parts:

mǔ - male (bird, animal, plant, etc.) / bolt of door / key / hills

lì - oyster

*Note 2: the simpler Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

詭弁/辯

May 2, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kiben

Japanese Meaning: sophistry / sophism / quibble / chicanery / play on words / false logic

Parts:

ki - deceive / lie

ben(be, bira, wakima) - speech / dialect / distinguish / discrimination / dispose of / petal / valve / braid

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word could also be written as 奇弁 or 危弁

Chinese Pinyin: guǐbiàn

Chinese Meaning: sophistry / sophistication / specious arguments / to argue one's point in a subtle, artful, clever, and sophisticated way

Parts:

guǐ - deceive / deceitful / cheat / defraud / sly / crafty / tricky / cunning / queer / peculiar / unusual / weird

biàn - to dispute / to debate / to argue / to discuss

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the second character is actually a simplified Japanese form of 辯辯辯, which are separate characters in Chinese.

*Note 3: the Japanese version of the second character is also a separate Chinese character 弁 (biàn) which is a type of conical cap worn during the Zhou dynasty.

痙攣

May 2, 2013

Japanese Romaji: keiren

Japanese Meaning: convulsions / spasm / cramps

Parts:

kei - have a cramp

ren(tsu) - bent / crooked

Chinese Pinyin: jìngluán

Chinese Meaning: convulsions / spasm / cramps / to jerk / to contort

Parts:

jìng - spasm / convulsion / fits

luán - (of a muscle, etc.) contract and become rigid / twisted / bent / crooked / curved / cramped / tangled / entwined / (of hair) curly / (slang) gay / not straight / restless / disturbed

顛覆

May 3, 2013

Japanese Romaji: tenpuku

Japanese Meaning: capsizing / overturn / turning over / to upset / overthrow (e.g. a government)

Parts:

ten - origin / overturn / summit

puku(o, oo, kutsugae, fuku) - capsize / be ruined / cover / shade / mantle

*Note 1: in Japanese, this is more commonly written as 転覆

Chinese Pinyin: diānfù

Chinese Meaning: to topple (i.e. knock over) / to capsize / overturn (a regime, by plotting or subversion)
/ to subvert / subversion / to undermine

Parts:

diān - top (of the head) / apex / peak / summit / to fall forwards / to upset / topple / inverted / to jolt /
to bump / to jerk

fù - to cover / to screen / to overflow / to overturn / capsize / to upset / tip over / to reply to a letter /
return / to answer / respond / once more / again / further

*Note 2: this word mostly refers to either something physically overturning (e.g. car, train, boat, etc.) or
a government or ideals being subverted.

*Note 3: a variant of the first character is 顛 The second character is a variant of 復 in Chinese

陋屋

May 3, 2013

Japanese Romaji: rouoku

Japanese Meaning: cramped home / one's humble abode / hovel / pigsty / cottage / squalid hut

Parts:

rou - humbleness / narrowness / meanness

oku(ya) - house / roof / (suffix) shop / seller / dealer / somebody who sells (something) or works as (something) / somebody with a (certain) personality trait

Chinese Pinyin: lòuwū

Chinese Meaning: humble dwelling

Parts:

lòu - humble (place) / simple / plain / narrow / low / (of knowledge) scanty / shallow / superficial / crude / coarse / vulgar / rough / undesirable / ugly / mean / unsightly / vile

wū - house / room / building / shelter

巴里

May 4, 2013

Japanese Romaji: pari

Japanese Meaning: Paris, France

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 巴黎 (bālí)

Parts:

pa(tomoe, domoe, ha, ba) - huge comma design / a Japanese abstract shape (a swirl) that resembles a comma or the usual form of magatama

ri(sato, zato) - village / hamlet / countryside / country / country house / hometown / home (of one's parents, etc.) / one's origins / one's upbringing / one's past / league / ri (old Japanese unit of distance) / neighbourhood / unit of area

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as パリ

Chinese Pinyin: bāli

Chinese Meaning: Bari, Italy

Chinese to Japanese Translation: バリー (baari)

Parts:

bā - greatly desire / anxiously hope / to long for / expect / to wish / to cling to / to stick to / something that sticks / crust formed as a result of heat or dryness / be close to / next to / spread open / informal abbreviation for "bus" / bar (unit of pressure) / nominalizing suffix on certain nouns (hands, cheeks, chin, tail, etc.) / a final particle implying closeness or adhesion / used as a suffix to describe a neighborhood within a particular province when speaking about someone / used to describe a song, not as a classic, but as vintage-popular / Palestine / Pakistan

lǐ -li (Chinese mile) / 500 metres (modern) / home / hometown / village / neighbourhood / lane / administrative unit

*Note 2: in Chinese, the second character is also the simplified form of 裡 and 裏

蜻蛉

May 4, 2013

Japanese Romaji: tonbo

Japanese Meaning: dragonfly / damselfly / odonata (order of insects)

Parts:

ton(sei) - dragonfly

bo(bou, rei) - dragonfly / moon moth

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as トンボ

*Note 2: in some old Japanese texts, this word also had the reading “kagerou”, resulting in confusion with the mayfly, a similar insect.

Chinese Pinyin: qīnglíng

Chinese Meaning: damselfly / lacewing / odonata (order of insects) / Libellulidae, a species of dragonfly

Parts:

qīng - dragonfly

líng - dragonfly / sandfly / libellulidae

*Note 3: technically speaking, this term refers to a class of insects which includes dragonflies and damselflies and is known scientifically as odonata. To specifically refer to dragonflies, トンボ垂目 (tonbo amoku) can be used in Japanese and 蜻蜓 (qīngtíng) can be used in Chinese. To specifically refer to damselflies, イトトンボ (itotonbo) can be used in Japanese and 豆娘 (dòuniáng) can be used in Chinese.

蜉蝣

May 5, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kagerou / fuyuu

Japanese Meaning: mayfly / dayfly / ephemera / ephemeroptera / ephemerality (of human life)

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 短暂的 (duǎnzànde) for the meaning of “ephemerality”

Parts:

kage(fu) - mayfly / kind of ant

rou(yuu) - mayfly

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is usually written as カゲロウ

*Note 2: in some old Japanese texts, this word is interchanged with the word for “dragonfly” (tonbo), resulting in confusion between the two insects.

*Note 3: only the reading “fuyuu” means “ephemerality”. Its meaning is likely derived from the fact that mayflies have extremely short adult life-spans of a few minutes to two days.

Chinese Pinyin: fúyóu

Chinese Meaning: a mayfly / dayfly / ephemera / ephemerid

Parts:

fú - mayfly / kind of large insect / dragonfly / large ant / wasp

yóu - mayfly (Ephemera strigata)

札幌

May 5, 2013

Japanese Romaji: sapporo

Japanese Meaning: Sapporo, Japan

Parts:

satsu(fuda) - paper money / (bank) note / (monetary) bill / ticket / card / placard / plate / tag / token / label / charm / talisman / bid / counter for (financial) bonds

poro(tobari, horo) - curtain / hanging / bunting / awning / canopy (especially the cloth or canvas used for it) / hood / top (of a convertible) / helmet cape / cloth covering one's back to protect against arrows during battle

Chinese Pinyin: zháhuǎng

Chinese Meaning: Sapporo, Japan

Parts:

zhá - short note / letter / correspondence / thin wooden tablet for writing / official document in ancient China

huǎng - curtain / cloth screen / advertising sign / shop sign / sign board / pretense / façade / pretext

*Note: the first character is also the simplified Chinese version of 劄 A variant of the second character is 幌

雄渾

May 6, 2013

Japanese Romaji: yuukon

Japanese Meaning: vigorous / bold / dynamic / virile / magnificent / grand / sublime

Parts:

yuu(o, osu, on) - male / masculine / hero / leader / superiority / excellence

kon(ada) - all / turbidity

Chinese Pinyin: xiónghún

Chinese Meaning: powerful / grand / grandiose / vigorous / firm / forceful / virile

Parts:

xióng - male / masculine / virile / hero / manly / staminate / grand / imposing / powerful / mighty / person or state having great power and influence

hún - muddy / turbid / foul / blend / merge / mix / foolish / stupid / wretched / whole / all over / complete / simple / natural / unsophisticated

*Note 1: this word is usually used to describe things such as artistic works and scenery.

*Note 2: when used alone, the first character is usually used to refer to male animals in an academic context and never for humans. The equivalent for females is 雌

*Note 3: the second character is a Chinese variant of 混

荔枝/荔

May 6, 2013

Japanese Romaji: reishi

Japanese Meaning: lychee / litchi / lichee / litchi nut

Parts:

rei - scallion / small onion

shi(eda, ji) - branch / limb / twig / bough / bow / counter for branches / counter for long, thin things (e.g. swords)

*Note: in Japanese, this is also commonly known as ライチ (raichi)

Chinese Pinyin: lìzhī

Chinese Meaning: lychee / litchi / lichee

Parts:

lì - lychee / litchi / lichee

zhī(qí) - branch / limbs / branch off / counter for sticks, rods, pencils, pens, brushes, etc. / an additional finger or toe

寛恕/寛

May 7, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kanjo

Japanese Meaning: forgiveness / magnanimity / generosity

Parts:

kan(kutsuro) - generosity / leniency / gentle / tolerant / broadminded / relax / be at ease / feel at home

jo - forgive / to excuse / tolerate

Chinese Pinyin: kuānshù

Chinese Meaning: to forgive / to pardon / forgiveness

Parts:

kuān - lenient / generous / tolerant / wide / broad / spacious / vast / relax / relieve / extend /
comfortably off / well-off

shù - to forgive / to excuse / pardon / show mercy / excuse me / beg your pardon / be considerate
towards others

潰瘍

May 7, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kaiyou

Japanese Meaning: an ulcer

Parts:

kai(tsui, tsubu) - to break / to crush / smash / dissipate

you - a boil / carbuncle

Chinese Pinyin: kuìyáng

Chinese Meaning: an ulcer / to ulcerate

Parts:

kuì - burst / break through / to break down / to be dispersed / flooding river / militarily defeat / be defeated / routed / collapse / fester / ulcerate

yáng - ulcers / sores / infection / (of skin) fester / ulcerate

忿懣

May 8, 2013

Japanese Romaji: funman

Japanese Meaning: anger / resentment / indignation / chagrin / irritation

Parts:

fun - be angry

man - anger / agony / worry

Chinese Pinyin: fènmèn

Chinese Meaning: anger / a grudge / animus / indignation / furious

Parts:

fèn - get angry / anger / indignation / hatred / fury / exasperation / feel convinced / accept (an unfavourable fact)

mèn - melancholy / be sick at heart / sorrowful / sad

*Note: in Japanese, this word can also be written as 憤懣, which is also used in Chinese but has the added meanings of “depressed” and “discontented”

鰮鰻

May 8, 2013

Japanese Romaji: ankou

Japanese Meaning: anglerfish / goosfish (any anglerfish of family Lophiidae) / monkfish / sea devil

Parts:

an - anglerfish / monkfish

kou - anglerfish

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as アンコウ

Chinese Pinyin: ānkāng

Chinese Meaning: anglerfish / monkfish

Parts:

ān(àn) - anglerfish

kāng - anglerfish

*Note 2: technically speaking, the Japanese term refers to a specific family of anglerfish known as Lophiidae whereas the Chinese term refers to anglerfish in general.

*Note 3: both characters in Chinese are borrowed from Japanese. The first character did exist in Chinese before and meant a type of catfish but Japan independently coined these two kanji for the meaning of "anglerfish".

痘苗

May 9, 2013

Japanese Romaji: toubyou

Japanese Meaning: vaccine

Parts:

tou - pox / smallpox

byou(nae, nawa, myou) - sapling / seedling / (plant) shoot

*Note 1: 痘痕 (pockmark) can be read as “abata” or “toukon”

Chinese Pinyin: dòumiáo

Chinese Meaning: vaccine / lymph / vaccinia virus

Parts:

dòu - smallpox / vaccine

miáo - sprouts / descendant / posterity / peevish / disobedient (children) / summer hunting / beginning / omen / Miao nationality

*Note 2: this term usually refers to the weak virus used within vaccines

癍痕

May 9, 2013

Japanese Romaji: hankon

Japanese Meaning: a scar / cicatrix

Parts:

han - scar

kon(ato) - a mark / footprint / trace / tracks / sign / remains / ruins / scar

*Note: 痘痕 (pockmark) can be read as “abata” or “toukon”

Chinese Pinyin: bānhén

Chinese Meaning: a scar

Parts:

bān - scar on the skin / a mark / a mole

hén - scar / traces / a mark

裨益

May 10, 2013

Japanese Romaji: hieki

Japanese Meaning: benefit / profit / good

Parts:

hi - help

eki(masu, yaku) - advantage / benefit / gain / have use / good / profit

Chinese Pinyin: bìyì

Chinese Meaning: to benefit / advantage / profit / to be a benefit to

Parts:

bì(pí) - to benefit / to aid / to help / advantageous / profitable / supplement / assistant / small

yì - benefit / profit / advantage / beneficial / to increase / to add to / augment / all the more / in a higher degree / to a greater extent / more

*Note: a variant of the first character is 裨

魍魎

May 10, 2013

Japanese Romaji: mouryou

Japanese Meaning: all kinds of spirits and goblins / demons and monsters

Parts:

mou - spirits of mountains and streams

ryou - spirits of trees and rocks

Chinese Pinyin: wǎngliǎng

Chinese Meaning: sprites and goblins / demons and monsters / a kind of monster

Parts:

wǎng - demons / mountain spirits / elf / sprite

liǎng - a kind of monster / sprite / fairy

*Note 1: a variant of this word in Chinese is 魍魎

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 魍 A variant of the second character is 魎

智慧

May 11, 2013

Japanese Romaji: chie

Japanese Meaning: wisdom / intelligence / wit / sense / sagacity / (Buddhism) prajna

Parts:

chi - wisdom / intellect / reason

e(kei) - wise

*Note: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as 知恵 and alternatively as 智恵

Chinese Pinyin: zhìhuì

Chinese Meaning: wisdom / knowledge / intelligent / intelligence

Parts:

zhì - wisdom / knowledge / intelligence / resourcefulness / wit / clever / bright / intelligent

huì - intelligent / intelligence / bright / wise / discerning

潇洒/灑

May 11, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shousha

Japanese Meaning: elegant / refined / smart / neat / trim / stylish / tasteful / chic

Parts:

shou - clean / pure

sha(ja) - sprinkle / wash

Chinese Pinyin: xiāosǎ

Chinese Meaning: (of a person's appearance, demeanor, carriage) natural and unrestrained / elegant / casual / refined / dashing / unconventional

Parts:

xiāo - sound of beating rain and wind / whistling (wind) / deep and clear (water) / light / ethereal / river name

sǎ - to sprinkle / to spray / to splash / to shed / to spill / to drip / trickle / scatter / throw / pour / to wipe away / to shiver

*Note 1: the Japanese definition is more general in that it can refer to anything that may be elegant or refined (e.g. a person, a building, a shop, a play, etc.) whereas the Chinese definition is limited to describing people.

*Note 2: a variant of this word in Chinese is 蕭灑

*Note 3: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

膨脹

May 12, 2013

Japanese Romaji: bouchou

Japanese Meaning: expansion / swelling / increase / growth

Parts:

bou(fuku, buku) - to swell / get fat / thick

chou(ha, fuku, buku) - bulge / dilate / distend / fill out / to swell

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as 膨張

Chinese Pinyin: péngzhàng

Chinese Meaning: expansion / swelling / inflation / bloated / to expand / to swell

Parts:

péng - swollen / to swell / bloated / inflated / inflate / expand / to balloon

zhàng - swollen / to swell / to be bloated / inflate / expand / distend / dropsical

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 癭

螳螂

May 12, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kamakiri / tourou

Japanese Meaning: praying mantis

Parts:

kama(tou) - mantis

kiri(rou) - mantis

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as カマキリ and alternatively as 螳螂 The “kamakiri” reading can also be written as 鎌切

Chinese Pinyin: tángláng

Chinese Meaning: a mantis / praying mantis / mantid

Parts:

táng - mantis / praying mantis

láng - a generic name for insects / dragonfly / mantis / dung beetle

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 螂

騷擾/騷

May 13, 2013

Japanese Romaji: soujou

Japanese Meaning: riot / disturbance

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 騷亂 (sāoluàn)

Parts:

sou(sawa, sai) - disturb / to excite / boisterous / clamor / make noise

jou - disturb / throw into confusion

Chinese Pinyin: sāorǎo

Chinese Meaning: to disturb / cause a commotion / to harass / to annoy / to agitate / to bother

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 嫌がらせ (iyagarase) for the meaning of "harassment"

Parts:

sāo - trouble / disturbance / disturb / rumpus / to upset / harass / to bother / annoy / agitate / flirty / coquettish / amorous / erotic / sad / grieved / literary writings / smell of urine / foul smell / smelly / stinky / male (animal)

ǎo - to disturb / to annoy / agitate / to trouble / trespass on somebody's hospitality / disorder

*Note 1: the Japanese term usually refers to disturbances of a violent nature involving many people (e.g. riots, demonstrations, etc.) whereas the Chinese term can refer to that and as well as to smaller disturbances involving a few people (e.g. sexual harassment, telephone harassment, etc.) or other things (e.g. harassed by mosquitoes).

*Note 2: a Chinese variant of the first character is 搔

錫杖

May 13, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shakujou

Japanese Meaning: a Buddhist monk's staff / a priest's staff / bishop's staff / a crosier / khakkhara

Parts:

shaku(suzu) - copper / tin

jou(tsue, dzue) - a cane / a staff / a stick / walking stick / a stave / a rod / a wand

Chinese Pinyin: xīzhàng

Chinese Meaning: monk's staff (Buddhism) / a Buddhist monk's walking stick

Parts:

xī(xí) - tin (chemistry) / stannum / to bestow / to confer / to grant

zhàng - a staff / a rod / a cane / walking stick / a stave / a wand / staff or rod used for a specific purpose
/ (archaic) to flog with a stick

諧謔

May 14, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kaigyaku

Japanese Meaning: joke / jest / banter / humor

Parts:

kai - harmony

gyaku - sport with

Chinese Pinyin: xiéxuè

Chinese Meaning: to wisecrack / to joke / to jest / pleasantry / banter / humorous repartee

Parts:

xié - harmonious / harmonize / congruous / in accord with / agree / joke / jest / humorous / jokey /
funny

xuè - joy / to joke / to banter / jeer / to tease / to mock

蒼穹

May 14, 2013

Japanese Romaji: soukyuu

Japanese Meaning: blue sky

Parts:

sou(ao) - blue / green / green light / immature / unripe / young

kyuu - sky

Chinese Pinyin: cāngqióng

Chinese Meaning: the sky / the blue dome of heaven / the vault of heaven / the firmament

Parts:

cāng - blue / green / ash gray / ash white / ashy / heaven / sky

qióng - vault / dome / the sky / high and vast / elevated / arched

*Note 1: this word is essentially a poetic way of saying “the sky” The Chinese version can have the characters reversed.

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 𩇛 A variant of the second character is 穹

斟酌

May 15, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shinshaku

Japanese Meaning: consideration (for others) / (making) allowances

Parts:

shin - estimate / dip water

shaku(ku, jaku) - draw (water) / ladle / pump / scoop / bartending / serving sake / pouring alcohol /

person pouring alcohol / the host

Chinese Pinyin: zhēnzhuó

Chinese Meaning: to consider / consideration / to deliberate / to fill a cup or glass with wine or liquor /
to fill up a cup to the brim

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 注ぐ (sosogu) for “filling a cup” or 酌む (kumu) for “serving alcohol”

Parts:

zhēn - to pour (wine or tea into a cup) / fill (up) / to deliberate / to gauge

zhuó - to pour wine / to drink wine / serve wine / feast / meal with wine or spirits / to deliberate / to
consider / think over / use discretion

*Note 1: this word means “to consider” whether particular actions, words, etc. are appropriate in a
given situation.

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 斟

咆哮

May 15, 2013

Japanese Romaji: houkou

Japanese Meaning: roar (of an animal) / howl / yell (of a person)

Parts:

hou(ho) - roar / bark / get angry

kou - growl / howl / roar / bellow

Chinese Pinyin: páoxiào

Chinese Meaning: (of an animal) to roar / to snarl / growl / (of winds, waves, etc.) to bluster / to thunder / crashing waves (onomatopoeia) / (of a person) to rage

Parts:

páo - to roar / bellow / howl

xiào(xiāo) - roar / bark (of animals) / howl / whoop / to pant / cough / wheeze / gasp

侮蔑/侮

May 16, 2013

Japanese Romaji: bubetsu

Japanese Meaning: scorn / disdain / contempt / to slight / pejorative

Parts:

bu(anado) - contempt / despise / scorn / make light of / (something) despised / (something) made light of

betsu(sagesu, naigashi) - despise / ridicule / ignore / neglect

Chinese Pinyin: wǔmiè

Chinese Meaning: contempt / to disgrace / to slight / despise

Parts:

wǔ - to insult / to ridicule / to disgrace / to bully / humiliate / aggression / oppression

miè - to belittle / disdain / disregard / despise / to slight / nothing / not having / without / none / small / tiny / unimportant

*Note: a variant of the second character is 蔑 The second character is also the simplified Chinese version of 蔑

廻廊/廻

May 16, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kairou

Japanese Meaning: corridor / gallery / hallway / cloister

Parts:

kai(mawa, megu, motoo, ne) - revolve / round / circumference / go around / game

rou - corridor / passage / hall / tower

Chinese Pinyin: huíláng

Chinese Meaning: a winding corridor / cloister / ambulatory (covered walkway around a cloister)

Parts:

huí - to curve / circle around / to return / to revolve / rotate / to turn / curving / zigzag / to wind

láng - corridor / hallway / veranda / porch / saloon / gallery

*Note 1: In Japanese, this word is more commonly written as 回廊. In Chinese, this word can also be written as 回廊, but the first character is actually the simplified version of today's character.

*Note 2: another variant of the first character is 廻. A variant of the second character is 廊.

荆棘

May 17, 2013

Japanese Romaji: keikyoku

Japanese Meaning: bramble / wild rose / briar patch / thorn (used figuratively as an obstacle or source of difficulty)

Parts:

kei(ibara) - thorn / brier / briar / wild rose / thorny shrub / whip / (architectural) cusp

kyoku(ibara, toge) - thorn / briars / briar / wild rose / thorny shrub / (architectural) cusp / spine / splinter / biting words

Chinese Pinyin: jīngjí

Chinese Meaning: thorns / thistles / brambles / thorny undergrowth / thorny / a difficult situation / in difficulty

Parts:

jīng - thorns / brambles / cane / rod / (archaic) my wife / chaste tree or berry (Vitex agnus-castus)

jí - thorns / brambles / buckthorns / thorny brambles / sour jujube / jujube tree / urgent / spine / spina

俘虜/虜

May 17, 2013

Japanese Romaji: furyo

Japanese Meaning: captive / prisoner of war

Parts:

fu - captive / prisoner

ryo(toriko) - captive / prisoner / barbarian / low epithet for the enemy / victim (of love, etc.) / slave (to one's lust, etc.)

Chinese Pinyin: fúlǚ

Chinese Meaning: captive / prisoner of war

Parts:

fú - to take prisoner / capture / captive / prisoner of war

lǚ - prisoner of war / captive / enemy / to capture / imprison / seize / to take prisoner / a prison

*Note: this word applies specifically to when a person is a prisoner due to a loss in some conflict. This is more commonly known as 捕虜 (horyo) in Japanese and 戰俘 (zhànfú) in Chinese.

琵琶

May 18, 2013

Japanese Romaji: biwa

Japanese Meaning: biwa (a short-necked fretted lute of Japanese origin)

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 日本琵琶 (Riběn pípa)

Parts:

bi - lute / glissando on strings

wa - lute

Chinese Pinyin: pípa

Chinese Meaning: pipa (a short-necked fretted lute of Chinese origin)

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 中国の琵琶 (chuugoku no biwa)

Parts:

pí - pipa lute / to pluck forward

pa(pá) - pipa lute / to pluck backwards

*Note: although the same characters are used, this word describes 2 different, yet similar instruments native to Japan and China. Korea has a similar instrument called a bipa, and Vietnam has the tỳ bà.

枇杷

May 18, 2013

Japanese Romaji: biwa

Japanese Meaning: a loquat / Japanese medlar / Japanese plum / Chinese plum

Parts:

bi - spoon

wa - kind of rake

*Note: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as ビワ

Chinese Pinyin: pípa

Chinese Meaning: a loquat / loquat tree / Japanese medlar / Japanese plum / Chinese plum

Parts:

pí - loquat

pa(pá) - loquat

躊躇

May 19, 2013

Japanese Romaji: chuucho

Japanese Meaning: hesitation / reluctance / indecision / vacillation / wavering

Parts:

chuu - hesitate

cho - hesitate

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word also appears as the verb 躊躇う with the reading “tamerau”, although it is preferably written as ためらう

Chinese Pinyin: chóuchú

Chinese Meaning: hesitate / falter / waver / vacillate / shilly-shally / complacent / confident

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 独り善がり (hitori yogari) for the meaning of “complacent”

Parts:

chóu - to hesitate / hesitant / to waver / falter / shilly-shally / to pace back and forth / smug / self-satisfied / complacent

chú - to hesitate / hesitant / falter / be undecided

*Note 2: A variant of the first character is 躊 A variant of the second character is 躇

袈裟

May 19, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kesa

Japanese Meaning: a kasaya (a patchwork outer vestment worn by a Buddhist monk) / a Buddhist monk's stole or robe / a surplice

Parts:

ke(ge) - a coarse camlet

sa - Buddhist surplice

Chinese Pinyin: jiāshā

Chinese Meaning: a kasaya (a patchwork outer vestment worn by a Buddhist monk) / the robe of a Buddhist monk / a cassock

Parts:

jiā - Buddhist monk's robe / Buddhist cassock

shā - Buddhist monk's robe / a cassock or robe of a monk

迎賓/賓

May 20, 2013

Japanese Romaji: geihin

Japanese Meaning: welcoming guests

Parts:

gei(muka, gou) - greet / meet / welcome

hin - guest / V.I.P.

*Note: 迎賓館 (geihinkan) refers to the State Guesthouse (or Akasaka Palace) which is a historical building reserved for state dignitaries visiting Japan.

Chinese Pinyin: yíngbīn

Chinese Meaning: to welcome a guest / to entertain a customer

Parts:

yíng - to welcome / to meet / to receive / greet / to face / to forge ahead (e.g. in the face of difficulty) / confront / go against

bīn - visitor / guest / treat as a guest / submit / obey / follow instructions / object (in grammar)

凜冽/凜

May 20, 2013

Japanese Romaji: rinretsu

Japanese Meaning: biting (cold) / severe / intense / rigorous

Parts:

rin(ri) - cold / frigid / bracing / severe / strict / dignified

retsu - cold

Chinese Pinyin: lǐnliè

Chinese Meaning: biting cold / piercingly cold / very cold / cold to the marrow

Parts:

lǐn - cold / chilly / bleak / to shiver with cold / to tremble with fear / fearful / afraid / scared /

apprehensive / strict / stern / severe / austere / awe-inspiring / imposing / majestic

liè - cold and raw / chilly / pure / clear

*Note 1: both versions of the first character can be used in Japanese, although the first version seems more common in print and in names and the second version is considered an older variant. The first version is the simplified Chinese version.

*Note 2: another variant of the first character is 凜 A variant of the second character is 冽

京都

May 21, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kyouto

Japanese Meaning: Kyoto, Japan

Parts:

kyou(miyako, kin, kei) - capital (city) / imperial capital (especially Kyoto) / metropolis / emperor's residence / 10^16

to(miyako, zu, tsu) - capital (city) / metropolis / metropolitan / city / municipal / prefecture of Tokyo

Chinese Pinyin: jīngdū

Chinese Meaning: Kyoto, Japan / capital (of a country, usually Beijing)

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 首都 (shuto) for the meaning of "capital"

Parts:

jīng - capital city of a country / metropolis / big / great / greatness / artificial mound (archaic) / Beijing (abbreviation) / 10^16

dū(dōu) - capital city / metropolis / all / the whole / both / entirely / (used for emphasis) even / already / (not) at all / elegant / refined

*Note: A variant of the first character is 京 A variant of the second character is 都

扶桑

May 21, 2013

Japanese Romaji: fusou

Japanese Meaning: Fusang (mythical island of ancient literature, often interpreted as Japan) / land east of China / (archaic or poetic) Japan / hibiscus / a sacred tree said to exist in Japan

Parts:

fu(tasu, bu) - aid / assist / help

sou(kuwa) - mulberry

Chinese Pinyin: fúsāng

Chinese Meaning: Fusang (mythical island of ancient literature, often interpreted as Japan) / (archaic or poetic) Japan / where the sun rises / hibiscus

Parts:

fú - support / help / aid / assist / protect / hold on / to support with the hand / to help somebody up / to support oneself by holding onto something / straighten up / to help

sāng - mulberry tree / white mulberry

*Note: a variant of the second character is 桑

翡翠

May 22, 2013

Japanese Romaji: hisui / kawasemi

Japanese Meaning: kingfisher / jade / jadeite / beautiful lustrous colour similar to that of the kingfisher's feathers

Parts:

hi(kawa, shou) - kingfisher

sui(midori, semi, bin) - green (color) / greenery / verdure

*Note 1: the “kawasemi” reading only means “kingfisher” and can also be written as 川蟬, although it is usually written as カワセミ

Chinese Pinyin: fěicùi

Chinese Meaning: kingfisher / halcyon / jade / emerald / jadeite / feitsui

Parts:

fěi - green jade / emerald / kingfisher

cùi - bluish-green / green jade / jadeite / green color / emerald green / kingfisher

*Note 2: technically speaking, for the meaning of “kingfisher”, the Japanese word refers specifically to the species “Alcedo atthis” whereas the Chinese term refers to the specific genus “halcyon”

*Note 3: a variant of the second character is 翠

朦朧

May 22, 2013

Japanese Romaji: mourou

Japanese Meaning: dim / faint / obscure / indistinct / ambiguous / vague / hazy

Parts:

mou - dim / obscure

rou(oboro) - hazy / dim / faint / dreaminess / gloom / haziness / cloudy / minced meat or fish

Chinese Pinyin: ménglóng

Chinese Meaning: dim / vague / hazy / misty / drowsy / half asleep / the appearance of the moon just before setting

Parts:

méng - dim / vague / hazy / indistinct / deceive / swindle / condition or appearance of the moon / the state of the moon just before setting

lóng - rising moon / condition or appearance of the moon / the moon's brightness

*Note: this word can mainly refer to things such as: (1) something which is barely visible or nearly obscured (such as something seen in fog, glasses, or in a blurry photo, or teary eyes), (2) unclear, ambiguous, or slurred speech, (3) a feeling of haziness or confusion (such as when drunk or nearly unconscious).

彷徨

May 23, 2013

Japanese Romaji: houkou

Japanese Meaning: wandering (aimlessly) / roaming / roving / rambling / fluctuation / variation

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 漫步 (mànbù)

Parts:

hou - loiter / stay / wander

kou - wandering

*Note: when used as 彷徨う (loiter) in Japanese, the reading becomes "samayou"

Chinese Pinyin: páng huáng

Chinese Meaning: to hesitate / undecided / be indecisive / to pace back and forth / wander

Chinese to Japanese Translation: ためらう (tamerau) for the meaning of hesitate

Parts:

páng(fǎng) - resembling / resemble / be like / seemingly / as if / alike / irresolute

huáng - irresolute / doubtful / vacillating / agitated / alarmed

眩暈

May 23, 2013

Japanese Romaji: memai / gen'un

Japanese Meaning: dizziness / giddiness / vertigo / the whirl of the brain

Parts:

me(kura, kuru, gen, mai, mabayu, mabu) - dizzy / faint

mai(kasa, bo, boka, un) - corona / astronomical halo (ring, etc.) / fade

Chinese Pinyin: xuànyūn

Chinese Meaning: dizziness / giddiness / vertigo / fainting / feeling of swaying / head spinning / lack of balance or floating (e.g. from a stroke)

Parts:

xuàn - dazzling / brilliant / dazzled / dizzy / dizzying / dazed / giddy / disoriented / to confuse / confused by / addicted to

yūn(yùn) - confused / dizzy / giddy / to faint / to swoon / to lose consciousness / to pass out / do things without a purpose (sarcastically) / fog / halo in the sky / ring around moon or sun / surrounding area

*Note: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as 目眩. It can also be written this way in Chinese, but the reading changes to "mùxuàn" and has a slightly different nuance with the meaning of "dazzled" (e.g. to see stars). Either way may also refer to dizziness caused by seeing something "dazzling" (e.g. beautiful).

叱責/叱

May 24, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shisseki

Japanese Meaning: scolding / reprimand / rebuke / telling-off / reproach / reproof

Parts:

shitsu(shika) - scold / reprove

seki(se, ze, shaku) - blame / censure / condemn / responsibility / duty / obligation

Chinese Pinyin: chìzé

Chinese Meaning: to reproach / to scold / to blame / to censure / upbraid

Parts:

chì - to scold / rebuke / reproach loudly / shout at (angrily) / to hoot at / bawl out

zé - duty / responsibility / obligation / to reproach / to blame / reprove / demand / require / instruct / question closely / interrogate

*Note: the second version of the first character is on the official list of commonly used Japanese kanji, but the first version is what appears most often when typing and writing. The second version doesn't appear on most online dictionaries.

蝌蚪

May 24, 2013

Japanese Romaji: otamajakushi / kato

Japanese Meaning: a tadpole / a ladle / a musical note

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 杓子 (sháozi) for “ladle”, 音符 (yīnfú) for “musical note”

Parts:

ka - tadpole

to - tadpole

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly read as “otamajakushi” and more commonly written as オタマジャクシ, おたまじゃくし, or お玉杓子. The last variant more commonly refers to “ladle.”

Chinese Pinyin: kēdǒu

Chinese Meaning: tadpole

Parts:

kē - tadpole

dǒu - tadpole

*Note 2: in Chinese, this word can alternatively be written as 科斗

褥瘡

May 25, 2013

Japanese Romaji: jokusou

Japanese Meaning: bedsore / pressure ulcer

Parts:

joku(shitone) - bedding / cushion / mattress / pillow

sou(kasa) - pustule / scab / a boil / a wound / syphilis / pox

Chinese Pinyin: rùchuāng

Chinese Meaning: bedsore / pressure ulcer

Parts:

rù - mattress / cushion / bedding

chuāng - a sore / tumor / boil / skin ulcer / a wound / a cut

傀儡

May 25, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kairai / kugutsu

Japanese Meaning: puppet / dummy

Parts:

kai(ku) - large

rau(gutsu) - defeat

Chinese Pinyin: kuǐlěi

Chinese Meaning: puppet

Parts:

kuǐ(guī) - puppet / grand / great / gigantic / strange / exotic / odd / peculiar / all by itself / alone

lěi - puppet / dummy / to injure

*Note: this term can refer to either a stage puppet or some entity which is being manipulated by another.

奢侈

May 26, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shashi

Japanese Meaning: luxury / extravagance

Parts:

sha(ogo) - luxury / extravagance

shi - luxury / pride

Chinese Pinyin: shēchǐ

Chinese Meaning: luxury / luxurious / extravagant / sumptuous / waste / wasteful / prodigal

Parts:

shē - extravagant / luxurious / wasteful / excessive / inordinate / exaggerated

chǐ - extravagant / luxurious / wasteful / exaggerating / high-sounding / windy

*Note 1: this word can have the negative connotation of describing things or actions which are unnecessary and is wasteful of resources.

*Note 2: a variant of both characters is 奢

鬚鯨

May 26, 2013

Japanese Romaji: higekujira

Japanese Meaning: baleen whale / whalebone whale / great whales / Mysticeti

Parts:

hige(shu) - beard / mustache / whiskers / extremely short pulse appearing on an electrical signal

kujira(gei) - whale

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is usually written as ヒゲクジラ and can alternatively be written as 髭鯨

Chinese Pinyin: xūjīng

Chinese Meaning: baleen whale / whalebone whale / great whales / Mysticeti

Parts:

xū - beard / mustache / whiskers / feeler (of an insect, etc.) / whisker-like / tassel

jīng - whale

*Note 2: in Chinese, the first character has the same simplified form as 須 (necessary)

*Note 3: a variant of the second character is 鯨

墳墓

May 27, 2013

Japanese Romaji: funbo

Japanese Meaning: a grave / a tomb

Parts:

fun(pun) - tomb / mound

bo(haka) - grave / tomb / gravesite / graveyard

Chinese Pinyin: fénmù

Chinese Meaning: a grave / a tomb / sepulcher / sepulchre

Parts:

fén - grave / tomb / embankment / mound / bulge / bulging / ancient book

mù - grave / tomb / mausoleum

蜈蚣

May 27, 2013

Japanese Romaji: mukade

Japanese Meaning: centipede

Parts:

go - centipede

kou(shou) - centipede / grasshopper

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as ムカデ or 百足 (with an alternate reading of “hyakusoku”)

Chinese Pinyin: wúgōng

Chinese Meaning: centipede

Parts:

wú - centipede

gōng - scolopendra centipede

*Note 2: in Cantonese Chinese, this word can also be referred to as 百足 (Jyutping: baak3 zuk1)

淋漓

May 28, 2013

Japanese Romaji: rinri

Japanese Meaning: dripping (wet with) / brimming (with energy, vigour, etc.)

Parts:

rin(sabi, sami) - deserted / lonely

ri - soak in / dripping

Chinese Pinyin: línlí

Chinese Meaning: dripping wet / pouring / saturated / (figurative) uninhibited / fluid / emotionally unrestrained / extreme

Parts:

lín(lìn) - to drench / to soak / to drip / to pour / to sprinkle / to filter / to strain / to drain / gonorrhea / strangury / diseases of the bladder / perfectly / lonely / deserted

lí - pattering (of rain) / seep through / water dripping / dripping wet

*Note 1: this word can describe something literally dripping wet or someone/something which is figuratively overflowing with energy (e.g. artwork, enthusiastic person, etc.)

*Note 2: the second character is also the simplified Chinese version of 離

弓弦

May 28, 2013

Japanese Romaji: yumidzuru / yudzuru

Japanese Meaning: bowstring

Parts:

yumi(yu, yun, kyuu) - bow (archery, violin, etc.) / a bow shape / archery / a curve / unit of distance to an archery target (approx. six feet) / unit of distance for land surveying (approx. eight feet)

dzuru(tsuru, gen) - bowstring / string (of shamisen, guitar, violin, etc.) / stringed instrument / bail (arched pot handle) / chord (geometry) / hypotenuse

Chinese Pinyin: gōngxián

Chinese Meaning: bowstring

Parts:

gōng - a bow (archery) / curved / arched / bent / a measure of length (equal to five Chinese feet)

xián - bowstring / string of a musical instrument / watch spring / spring of clocks and watches / chord (geometry) / hypotenuse / crescent / first and last quarters of the moon / (medicine) having rapid pulse

*Note: a variant of the second character is 絃

摸倣/摹仿

May 29, 2013

Japanese Romaji: mohou

Japanese Meaning: imitation / copying / a fake / a sham

Parts:

mo(mou) - copy / imitate / search

hou(nara) - emulate / imitate

Chinese Pinyin: mófǎng

Chinese Meaning: to imitate / to copy / to emulate / to mimic / to simulate / to model after / to pattern after / to ape

Parts:

mó - to imitate / to copy / trace / duplicate / pattern

fǎng - to imitate / to copy / model on / resemble / be like / as if

*Note 1: In Japanese, this word is more commonly written as 模倣 In Chinese, this word is more commonly written as 模仿

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the first character is also a separate Chinese character with the reading “mō” meaning “to touch”

*Note 3: the Chinese version of the second character is also the simplified version of 仿

鸚鵡

May 29, 2013

Japanese Romaji: oumu

Japanese Meaning: a parrot / a cockatoo

Parts:

ou(in) - parrot / parakeet

mu - cockatoo

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is usually written as オウム

Chinese Pinyin: yīngwǔ

Chinese Meaning: a parrot

Parts:

yīng - species of parrot

wǔ - species of parrot

*Note 2: technically speaking, this term can refer to a family of birds including parrots and cockatoos, known as Psittaciformes

仏陀/佛

May 30, 2013

Japanese Romaji: butsuda / budda

Japanese Meaning: Buddha

Parts:

butsu(hotoke, botoke, futsu) - Buddha / Buddhism / merciful person / enlightened being / Buddhist
image / statue of Buddha / the dead / the deceased / France
da - steep

Chinese Pinyin: fótúo

Chinese Meaning: Buddha / the all-enlightened one

Parts:

fó - Buddha / Buddhism / Buddhist / merciful person / Buddhist image / statue of Buddha / Buddhist
scripture
tuó - (phonetic) / declivity / steep bank / rough terrain / rugged terrain / craggy

*Note: two variants of the second character are 陀 and 随 The Chinese version of the first character is
also the simplified Chinese version of 佛

菩薩

May 30, 2013

Japanese Romaji: bosatsu

Japanese Meaning: Bodhisattva (one who vows to save all beings before becoming a Buddha) / a Buddhist saint

Parts:

bo - kind of grass / sacred tree

satsu - Buddha

Chinese Pinyin: púsà

Chinese Meaning: Bodhisattva (one who vows to save all beings before becoming a Buddha) / Buddha

Parts:

pú - herb / aromatic plant / Bodhisattva

sà - a general name of Buddhist gods or immortals / Bodhisattva / Buddha / transliteration of 'sat' in 'Bodhisattva,' etc.

石榴

May 31, 2013

Japanese Romaji: zakuro

Japanese Meaning: pomegranate

Parts:

zaku(seki) - wild mulberry

ro(ryuu) - pomegranate

Chinese Pinyin: zhèliú

Chinese Meaning: pomegranate

Parts:

zhè - a thorny tree / sugarcane / Cudrania triloba / three-bristle cudrania (Cudrania tricuspidata) /

Chinese mulberry (Cudrania)

liú - pomegranate

*Note 1: this word can alternatively be written as 石榴 but the reading in Chinese changes to shíliú

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 榴

杜撰

May 31, 2013

Japanese Romaji: zusan

Japanese Meaning: slipshod / careless / slovenly / sloppy / faulty / loose (thinking) / author who makes many mistakes / author who uses unsupported references

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 馬虎 (mǎhu), 稀鬆 (xīsōng), etc.

Parts:

zu(mori, to) - grove / woods / forest / shrine grove / careless

san(era, sen) - compiling / compilation / collection / composing / editing / selecting / selection /

anthology (of poetry, etc.) /

Chinese Pinyin: dùzhuàn

Chinese Meaning: to fabricate (a story, etc.) / to make something up / invented / to trump up / to make up

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 作り話をする (tsukuribanashi o suru)

Parts:

dù - birch-leaf pear (tree) / to stop / to prevent / to restrict / shut out

zhuàn - to compose / to compile / write

*Note: the second character is also a Chinese variant and simplified version of 撰 Yet another variant is 纂

魁偉

June 1, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kai'i

Japanese Meaning: brawny / muscular / impressive / gigantic

Parts:

kai(sakigake) - pioneer / forerunner / harbinger / charging ahead of others / the first to charge

i(era) - greatness / remarkable / admirable / excellent / famous / conceited / tremendous / huge

Chinese Pinyin: kuíwěi

Chinese Meaning: burly / well-built / tall and robust / tall and big / husky / stalwart

Parts:

kuí - chief / leader / head / outstanding / exceptional / best / stalwart / tall and sturdy / monstrous

wěi - big / large / great / gigantic / robust / extraordinary

乳酪

June 1, 2013

Japanese Romaji: nyuuraku

Japanese Meaning: dairy products (especially butter)

Japanese to Chinese Translation: see note

Parts:

nyuu(chi, dji, chichi, u, on) - breasts / milk / loop / decorative bump (on a hanging bell)

raku - dairy products / whey / broth / fruit juice

Chinese Pinyin: rǔlào

Chinese Meaning: cheese / yogurt / yoghurt / junket / curds

Chinese to Japanese Translation: see note

Parts:

rǔ - breast / nipples / teat / milk / milk-like liquid / suckle / suckling / newborn / give birth to / multiply

lào(luò) - curdled milk / cream / cheese / junket (dessert) / fruit juice / fruit jelly / jam / paste / fruit

cream / koumiss / a sort of wine

*Note: technically, the Japanese term can refer to dairy products in general but is mostly used for butter, cheese, and cream. The Chinese term refers to dairy products which involve bacteria in their processing (especially cheese and yogurt). To refer to all dairy products in general, the common Japanese word is 乳製品 (nyuuseihin) and the Chinese word is 奶制品 (nǎizhìpǐn). In Japanese, butter, cheese, cream, and yogurt are バター (bataa), チーズ (chiizu), クリーム (kuriimu), and ヨーグルト (yooguruto) respectively. The same words in Chinese are 黄油 (huángyóu), 奶酪/芝士 (nǎilào/zhīshì), 奶油 (nǎiyóu), and 酸奶 (suānnǎi). (Although there are also regional differences).

塊茎/莖

June 2, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kaikei

Japanese Meaning: (plant) tuber

Parts:

kai(katamari, kure) - lump / a mass / bundle / clod / clump / glob / cluster / clot / chink

kei(kuki, guki) - a stalk / stem

*Note 1: 芋茎 (taro stem) is read as “zuiki”

Chinese Pinyin: kuàijīng

Chinese Meaning: (plants) a stem tuber / starchy tuber on stem of plants

Parts:

kuài - lump (of earth) / clod / chunk / piece / a cube of / a piece of (land, bread, etc.) / alone / to be all by oneself / counter for pieces of cloth, cake, soap, small flat objects, etc. / colloquial word for yuan (Chinese currency) or other unit of currency (such as Hong Kong or US dollar, etc.)

jīng - a stalk / stem / stem-shaped object (e.g. knife handle)

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 3: a variant of the first character is 𦵏

*Note 4: potatoes are tubers

咳嗽

June 2, 2013

Japanese Romaji: gaisou

Japanese Meaning: coughing

Parts:

gai(shiwabu, shiwabuki, se, seki, zeki) - cough / coughing / tussis / to clear the throat

sou(ugai) - gargle / rinse / wash

Chinese Pinyin: késou / késòu

Chinese Meaning: to cough / a cough

Parts:

ké(hāi) - cough / sound of sighing / an interjection of regret or remorse

sou(sòu) - cough / gargle / to clear the throat

浮腫

June 3, 2013

Japanese Romaji: fushu

Japanese Meaning: an edema / oedema / swelling

Parts:

fu(u, uwa, mu) - float / floating / rise to the surface

shu(ku, ha) - swelling / tumor / tumour

*Note: In Japanese, this word can also be written as 浮腫み with the reading “mukumi”. The verb 浮腫む is read “mukumu”

Chinese Pinyin: fúzhǒng

Chinese Meaning: an edema / oedema / dropsy/ bloated / swollen / dropsy

Parts:

fú - to float / to drift / waft / floating / unstable / movable / provisional / temporary / transient / impetuous / frivolous / unpractical / superficial / shallow / hollow / inflated / to exceed / superfluous / excessive / surplus / redundant

zhǒng - to swell / swelling / swollen / bulge out

蝴蝶

June 3, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kochou

Japanese Meaning: butterfly

Parts:

ko - butterfly

chou - butterfly

Chinese Pinyin: húdié

Chinese Meaning: butterfly

Parts:

hú - butterfly

dié - butterfly

*Note 1: this word can alternatively be written as 胡蝶, although in Japanese butterflies are more commonly referred to as 蝶 (chou)

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 蝶

揶揄

June 4, 2013

Japanese Romaji: yayu

Japanese Meaning: making fun of / ridicule / derision / banter / tease / raillery / banter with

Parts:

ya - play with / tease

yu - play with / tease / pull

Chinese Pinyin: yéyú

Chinese Meaning: to mock / to ridicule / deride / to jeer at / to play a joke on / to tease / to taunt / teases

Parts:

yé - make fun of / ridicule / deride / jeer at / to play antics / to gesticulate

yú - lift / raise / hang / flap / to draw out / to let hanging / praise / acclaim / laud

*Note: a variant of the first character is 揶

塵埃

June 4, 2013

Japanese Romaji: jin'ai / chirihokori

Japanese Meaning: dust / dirt

Parts:

jin(gomi, chiri) - garbage / trash / rubbish / refuse / dust / dirt / (Buddhism) defilement / impurity / affliction / object (perceived with the mind or senses) / one billionth (10^{-9})

ai(hokori, bokori) - dust / one ten-billionth (10^{-10})

*Note: in Japanese, this word can also be used figuratively to refer to the "dirtiness" in the world or the mundane aspects of life or society.

Chinese Pinyin: chén'āi

Chinese Meaning: dust / dirt

Parts:

chén - dust / dirt / ashes / cinders / earth / this world / trace / track / one billionth (10^{-9})

āi - dust / dirt / fine dust / one ten-billionth (10^{-10}) / Angstrom / Ångström (10^{-10} m) / phonetic ai or e / Egypt

企及

June 5, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kikyuu

Japanese Meaning: attempt / strive for / endeavour

Parts:

ki(kuwada, takura) - attempt / design / plan / scheme / undertake

kyuu(oyo) - cause / exert / exercise / reach out

Chinese Pinyin: qǐjí / qìjí

Chinese Meaning: to strive for / to hope to reach

Parts:

qǐ(qì) - to plan a project / to hope / expect / to long / to stand on tiptoe / abbreviation for enterprise or company

jí - to reach / extend / come up to / attain / and / as well as / with / in time for / just at the moment / timely / when / as long as / up to / until / continue / proceed

蟒蛇

June 5, 2013

Japanese Romaji: uwabami

Japanese Meaning: a python / large snake / (colloquial) a heavy drinker / heavy drinking

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 酒鬼 (jiǔguǐ) for the meaning of “heavy drinker”

Parts:

uwabami - python / boa constrictor

ja(hebi, kuchinawa, da) - snake / serpent / large snake / hard drinker

*Note 1: the Japanese meaning of “heavy drinking” may be derived from the Japanese myth of 八岐大蛇 (yamata no orochi), a giant 8-headed, 8-tailed snake which was slain by スサノオ (Susano-o) after being tricked into becoming drunk on sake.

*Note 2: 大蛇 (big snake) has the reading of “orochi”

Chinese Pinyin: mǎngshé

Chinese Meaning: a python / a boa

Parts:

mǎng - python / boa constrictor / boa-design ceremonial robe

shé - snake / serpent

*Note 3: a variant of the first character is 蟒 A variant of the second character is 虵

焦燥

June 6, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shousou

Japanese Meaning: fretfulness / impatient / uneasiness / irritation / have the jitters

Parts:

shou(ase, ko, ji) - burn / char / scorch / singe / hurry / impatient / irritate

sou(hasha) - dry up / parch

Chinese Pinyin: jiāozào

Chinese Meaning: fretful / impatient / worried, anxious, and getting impatient / getting restless because of anxiety

Parts:

jiāo - burnt / burned / scorched / charred / the smell or stench of things burned / worried / anxious / vexed

zào - dry / parched / arid / quick-tempered / impatient

*Note 1: this word can also be written as 焦躁 less commonly in Japanese or more commonly in Chinese. In Chinese, it may also be written as 焦噪

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 燥

剽悍

June 6, 2013

Japanese Romaji: hyoukan

Japanese Meaning: fierceness / daring and agile / swift and fierce / fierce and nimble

Parts:

hyou - threat

kan - clumsy / rough / violent

Chinese Pinyin: piāohàn

Chinese Meaning: agile and fierce / swift and fierce / agile and brave / quick and fierce / warlike

Parts:

piāo(piào) - swift / nimble / agile / fast / to rob / plunder / to loot / pillage / slice off / plagiarize / lift / copy / to pirate

hàn - heroic / intrepid / valiant / dauntless / brave / courageous / fierce / ferocious / violent

*Note: a variant of the first character is 標 A variant of the second character is 獍

佳肴/饌

June 7, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kakou

Japanese Meaning: delicacy / rare treat / good-eating fish

Parts:

ka(yo) - excellent / good / pleasing / beautiful / skilled

kou(sakana) - accompaniment for drinks / appetizer or snack served with drinks / performance to liven up a bar / conversation to liven up a party

Chinese Pinyin: jiāyáo

Chinese Meaning: a delicacy / fine food / delicious food / a delicious dish / an excellent menu

Parts:

jiā - beautiful / fine / good / auspicious / delightful / outstanding / joyous / of quality

yáo - meat dishes / mixed viands / prepared meat / food

*Note: the Japanese version of the second character is also (1) the simplified version of the Chinese character, (2) a separate Chinese character and (3) the simplified Chinese version of 肴

仙丹

June 7, 2013

Japanese Romaji: sentan

Japanese Meaning: the elixir (of life) / a panacea / a cure-all

Parts:

sen - wizard / hermit / sage / an enlightened person (usually immortal and ageless) / a person of exceptional talent / the supernatural techniques for becoming immortal and ageless / short for 仙人 (sen'nin), an immortal living as a hermit in the mountains / the region where a sen'nin lives
tan(ni) - pills / red / red lead / rust-colored / vermilion / red earth (i.e. containing cinnabar or minium)

Chinese Pinyin: xiāndān

Chinese Meaning: an elixir / magic potion / a divine pill / a panacea / a cure-all

Parts:

xiān - immortal / god / fairy / Buddhist deva / transcendent / divine / ascend / ascended / Taoist super-being / sage / enlightened person / good / celestial talent / heavenly beauty (often used as a modifier, in praise of) / noun modifier, having to do with Taoist, esoteric magic
dān - red / scarlet / cinnabar (mineral) / vermilion (pigment) / tablet / capsule / pill / (medical) pellet (especially the pellet of immortality sought by alchemists) / powder

*Note: 2 variants of the first character are 僊 and 僊

戍卒

June 8, 2013

Japanese Romaji: jusotsu

Japanese Meaning: garrison / guard

Parts:

ju(mamo) - protection

sotsu(o, so, tozo) - graduate / a private / low-ranking soldier / to die / death (of a noble, etc.)

Chinese Pinyin: shùzú

Chinese Meaning: garrison soldier

Parts:

shù - garrison / defend borders / guard frontiers

zú(cù) - soldier / servant / pawn / to finish / to die / to end / finally / at last / pawn in Chinese chess / suddenly / abruptly / unexpectedly

*Note: two variants of the second character are 卒 and 卒; the second character is a variant of 猝

腱鞘

June 8, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kenshou

Japanese Meaning: tendon sheath (anatomy)

Parts:

ken - tendon (anatomy)

shou(saya, zaya) - sheath / scabbard / case / shells (of beans) / difference / margin

Chinese Pinyin: jiànqiào

Chinese Meaning: tendon sheath (anatomy) / epitendon

Parts:

jiàn - tendon (anatomy) / sinew

qiào - sheath / scabbard / wooden tube in which money is shipped / flexible thin part of a whip

珐瑯

June 9, 2013

Japanese Romaji: hourou

Japanese Meaning: enamel / enamelled metal ware (sinks, pots, etc.)

Parts:

hou - enamel

rou - precious stone

Chinese Pinyin: fàláng

Chinese Meaning: enamel

Parts:

fà - enamel / enamel ware / cloisonné ware

láng - gem / kind of white cornelian / pearl-like jade / pure and white / tinkling of pendants /
(onomatopoeia) sound of reading aloud

*Note: a variant of the second character is 琅 It is also the simplified Chinese version of the second character.

攪拌/攪

June 9, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kakuhan / kouhan

Japanese Meaning: stirring / whipping / beating (eggs, etc.) / churning / agitation

Parts:

kaku(kou) - disturb / throw into confusion

han - stir and mix

Chinese Pinyin: jiǎobàn

Chinese Meaning: to stir / to churn / to mix / to agitate

Parts:

jiǎo - to disturb / to annoy / to bother / agitate / to mix / to stir up / to blend

bàn - to mix / to mix in / mix and stir / to dress / to toss (a salad) / bicker / quarrel / squabble

*Note: another variant of the first character is 搥

胚胎

June 10, 2013

Japanese Romaji: haitai

Japanese Meaning: germination / pregnancy / the origination or beginning of things

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 發芽 (fāyá) for the meaning of “germination”

Parts:

hai - embryo (zoological or botanical) / germ (e.g. wheat germ)

tai(hara) - uterus / womb

Chinese Pinyin: pēitāi

Chinese Meaning: the origination or beginning of things / embryo

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 胚 (hai) for the meaning of “embryo”

Parts:

pēi - embryo / unfinished things

tāi - fetus / foetus / embryo / womb / birth / unborn child / padding / stuffing / roughcast / litter /
(loanword) tire

*Note 1: the main difference between the meanings is that the Japanese term refers to the instant something is born (germination) whereas the Chinese term refers to the thing appearing at the first stage of something (embryo).

*Note 2: 2 variants of the first character are 胚 and 𦍋

憐憫

June 10, 2013

Japanese Romaji: renbin

Japanese Meaning: pity / mercy / compassion / commiseration

Parts:

ren(awa) - compassion / have mercy / pity / sympathise

bin - anxiety / mercy

Chinese Pinyin: liánmǐn

Chinese Meaning: to take pity on / mercy / to take compassion on / to commiserate

Parts:

lián - to pity / sympathize with / have compassion for / love tenderly / highly value somebody / care for

mǐn - to sympathize with / to pity for / to feel compassion for / grieve for / commiserate with / sorrow

*Note: 2 variants of the second character are 愍 and 閔

穿鑿

June 11, 2013

Japanese Romaji: sensaku

Japanese Meaning: digging into / excavation / delve into / scrutiny / inquiry into / enquiry into / probe / prying into / to rake / ransack

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 刺探 (cìtàn) for “prying into”

Parts:

sen(uga, ha, ba, hoji, hojiku) - dig / drill / pierce / put on (to the feet)

saku(nomi) - chisel

Chinese Pinyin: chuānzáo

Chinese Meaning: to bore a hole / to give a forced interpretation / to give a farfetched interpretation / to read too much into something

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 氣を回す (ki o mawasu) for “reading too much into something”

Parts:

chuān - to bore through / to pierce through / to perforate / to penetrate / to drill / to pass through / to dress / to wear (clothes, shoes, etc.) / to put on / to thread / cross (street, etc.) / see-through / bare (secret, etc.)

záo(zuò) - chisel / scalpel / to bore a hole / to drill / to chisel / to cut (a hole) / to pierce / to dig / scuttle (ship) / certain / authentic / irrefutable

*Note: the main similarity between Japanese and Chinese is that this word can literally mean “drill a hole”. The main difference is that the Japanese term also means to dig around excessively into certain matters to the smallest detail (with negative connotations, e.g. being nosy) and possibly interfering, whereas the Chinese term simply means overanalyzing a situation and ending up with a wild theory.

蹲踞

June 11, 2013

Japanese Romaji: sonkyo / tsukubai

Japanese Meaning: crouching / squatting / formal crouch performed at the beginning of a sumo or kendo match / stone wash basin found in Japanese gardens (tsukubai)

Parts:

son(uzukuma, tsukuba, tsukubai) - crouch / squat / cower / stone wash basin found in Japanese gardens

kyo(i, uzukuma) - crouch / cower

*Note: the “sonkyo” reading only applies to the meanings of “squatting” and the “tsukubai” reading only applies to the “stone wash basin” meaning.

Chinese Pinyin: dūnjù

Chinese Meaning: to squat / to crouch

Parts:

dūn - to crouch / to squat / stay / idle about / remain idle in place / injure one's foot or leg due to heavy fall

jù - to squat / to crouch / sit / occupy / to be based upon

腹腔

June 12, 2013

Japanese Romaji: fukukou / fukkou / fukukuu

Japanese Meaning: abdominal cavity

Parts:

fuku(hara, bara, para, naka, puku) - abdomen / belly / stomach / one's mind / one's real intentions / one's true motive / loop (physics) / counter for hard roe (eggs)

kou(kuu) - body cavity

Chinese Pinyin: fùqiāng

Chinese Meaning: abdominal cavity

Parts:

fù - abdomen / belly / stomach / inside / heart / mind / interior / front

qiāng - body cavity / chest cavity / hollow in body / chamber (in one's body) / barrel (e.g. engine cylinder) / compartment / tune / accent of speech / tone / speech / pitch

滯納/滯

June 12, 2013

Japanese Romaji: tainou

Japanese Meaning: default (in payment) / nonpayment

Parts:

tai(todokoo) - arrears / overdue / be delayed / stagnate

nou(osa, tou, na, natsu, nan) - pay / obtain / reap / settlement / store / supply

Chinese Pinyin: zhìnà

Chinese Meaning: overdue (payment) / in arrears

Parts:

zhì - block up / obstruct / stagnant / at a standstill / impeded / stationary / sluggish / (Cantonese) used to describe a bloated or satiated feeling after eating, or a food that causes this condition

nà - to admit / take / receive / accept / adopt / to bring into / enjoy (coolness, easy life, etc.) / feel (surprised, perplexed) / to pay (tax) / give (bribes) / offer (advice) / nano- (one billionth) / to reinforce sole of shoes or stockings by close sewing / sew close stitches (over)

*Note: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

鼓吹

June 13, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kosui

Japanese Meaning: advocacy / incultation / inspiration / encouragement

Parts:

ko(tsudzumi) - hand drum / beat / muster / rouse

sui(fu, bu, fuki, buki) - blow / emit / breathe / puff / smoke

*Note 1: 吹雪 (snowstorm) has the reading "fubuki"

Chinese Pinyin: gǔchuī

Chinese Meaning: to advocate / to uphold / to promote / to propagate / to agitate for / to enthusiastically promote / proclaim far and wide / preach / play up / a kind of ancient court music

Parts:

gǔ - drum / to drum / to strike / to beat a drum / top / vibrate / quiver / to rouse / stir up / instigate / to bulge / to swell

chuī - to blow / to play a wind instrument / to blast / to puff / to boast / to brag / praise in exaggerated words / to end in failure / to fall through / break up

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 鼓 A variant of the second character is 𪔐

后妃

June 13, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kouhi

Japanese Meaning: queen / empress

Parts:

kou(kisaki, gou) - queen / empress / after / later / back / behind

hi(kisaki) - queen / empress / princess / consort / a ruler's wife

Chinese Pinyin: hòufēi

Chinese Meaning: the empress and imperial concubines / the empress and the emperor's consort / imperial wives and concubines

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 側室 (sokushitsu) for "concubine"

Parts:

hòu - empress / queen / sovereign / the god of the earth

fēi - imperial concubine / the concubine of a king or an emperor / wife / spouse

*Note: the first character is also the simplified Chinese version of 後

閣僚

June 14, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kakuryou

Japanese Meaning: cabinet minister

Parts:

kaku - palace / tower / tall building

ryou - colleague / companion / an official

Chinese Pinyin: géliáo

Chinese Meaning: cabinet member

Parts:

gé - pavilion (usually two-storied) / chamber / cabinet (of a government) / boudoir / woman's chamber / rack / shelf / loft / mezzanine

liáo - bureaucrat / government official / bureaucracy / colleague / associate in office / companion / a pretty face / (archaic) friend

*Note: a variant of the first character is 閣 A variant of the second character is 寮

蹂躪/躪

June 14, 2013

Japanese Romaji: juurin

Japanese Meaning: infringement / violation / trampling upon / overrunning / trampling down

Parts:

juu - step on

rin(niji) - trample / edge forward

Chinese Pinyin: róulìn

Chinese Meaning: to trample on / to devastate / to ravage / to violate / rapacious acts

Parts:

róu - trample under foot / to tread on

lìn - to trample down / to oppress / to overrun

謹慎/謹

June 15, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kinshin

Japanese Meaning: good behaviour / tact / penitence / repentance / discipline / house arrest / suspension (from school, work, etc.) / home confinement (punishment)

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 懺悔 (chànhuǐ) for “penitence” / 軟禁 (ruǎnjìn) for “house arrest”

Parts:

kin(tsutsushi) - discreet / humbly / reverently

shin(tsutsu, tsutsushi) - be careful / discreet / prudent / humility

Chinese Pinyin: jǐnshèn

Chinese Meaning: tactful / prudent / cautious / discreet / deliberate

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 慎重 (shinchou)

Parts:

jǐn - cautious / careful / prudent / strict / attentive / solemnly / sincerely (formal) / respectful / differential

shèn - careful / cautious / prudent / scrupulous / act with care

*Note 1: in general, the one similar meaning between Chinese and Japanese is “to be careful to say and do the appropriate things in a given situation”

*Note 2: 2 variants of the second character are 慎 and 眷

閨秀

June 15, 2013

Japanese Romaji: keishuu

Japanese Meaning: an accomplished lady

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 多才多藝的小姐 (duōcáiduōyì de xiǎojiě)

Parts:

kei(neya) - bedroom (mainly refers to one used by a married couple) / sleeping quarters / inner room / inner sanctum

shuu(hii) - excel / excellence / surpass / pre-eminence / superlativeness / beauty

Chinese Pinyin: guīxiù

Chinese Meaning: well-bred young lady / a well-educated girl brought up in a good family / elegant society ladies

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 大事に育てられた娘 (daiji ni sodaterareta musume)

Parts:

guī - small arched door / small entrance / arch-topped door / boudoir / lady's chamber / women's quarters / (by extension) women

xiù - handsome / beautiful / refined / elegant / graceful / flowering / luxuriant / outstanding / excellent / standout / clever / intelligent / brilliant / performance / show (loanword) / ear of grain / (of grain crops) put forth flowers or ears

蹴鞠

June 16, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kemari / shuukiku

Japanese Meaning: kemari (type of football/soccer played by courtiers in ancient Japan)

Japanese to Chinese Translation: see Note 1

Parts:

ke(ge, shuu) - to kick

mari(kiku) - ball

Chinese Pinyin: cùjū

Chinese Meaning: cuju (ancient Chinese football/soccer)

Chinese to Japanese Translation: see Note 1

Parts:

cù - to kick / to tread on / to stamp / leap / solemn / carefully

jū(jú) - bow / bend (gesture of respect) / to bring up / to raise / to rear / nourish / (archaic) leather ball

*Note 1: “kemari” is native to Japan while “cuju” is native to China, although both games’ names are written with the same characters. Japanese kemari is derived from Chinese cuju and they are similar in that both involve several people contacting a ball using any body part except the hands. Cuju is most similar to modern soccer/football while Japanese kemari merely involves keeping a ball in midair and is mostly played during festivals.

*Note 2: a variant of this word in Chinese is 蹴鞠 A variant of the first character is 蹙 A variant of the second character is 鞠

癲癇

June 16, 2013

Japanese Romaji: tenkan

Japanese Meaning: epilepsy / epileptic fit

Parts:

ten - insanity

kan - temper / bitter / irritable / nerves / nervous / hot temper

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is usually written as てんかん

Chinese Pinyin: diānxián

Chinese Meaning: epilepsy

Parts:

diān - mentally deranged / crazy / mad / madness / mania / insanity / insane / lunatic

xián - epilepsy / convulsions / insanity

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 癇

倭寇

June 17, 2013

Japanese Romaji: wakou

Japanese Meaning: Wokou (pirates that raided Japan and its neighbouring countries in the Late Middle Ages)

Parts:

wa(yamato) - ancient Japan / Yamato / ancient province corresponding to modern-day Nara Prefecture / Japanese

kou(ada) - bandits / thieves / enemy / foe / rival / invade / resentment / enmity / grudge / harm / injury

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word can alternatively be written as 和寇, 倭寇, or 和寇

Chinese Pinyin: wōkòu

Chinese Meaning: Wokou (pirates that raided Japan and its neighbouring countries in the Late Middle Ages)

Parts:

wō - dwarf / dwarfish / short / Japanese (old derogatory term) / Japan / (archaic) docile / obedient / (archaic) winding / meandering / (archaic) women's hairstyle with a bun or buns

kòu - bandit / thieves / foe / enemy / to invade / to plunder / to rob

*Note 2: the first character has historically been used derogatively to refer to Japanese people. It was originally used to refer to Japan but was changed to 和 because of its connotations of dwarfism and submissiveness.

*Note 3: three variants of the second character are 寇寇寇

詩篇

June 17, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shihen

Japanese Meaning: a book of poems / the book of Psalms (book of the Bible)

Parts:

shi(uta, shii) - poem / poetry / verse of poetry / modern poetry

hen(pen) - compilation (of a text) / a volume (of text) / book / chapter / editing / completed literary work

Chinese Pinyin: shīpiān

Chinese Meaning: poems / a composition in verse / (figurative) an epic / the book of Psalms (book of the Bible)

Parts:

shī - poem / poetry / verse / ode / poetic / anything or quality as an offspring of pure imagination

piān - sheet / piece of writing / volume (of text) / chapter / section / essay / article / bound set of

bamboo slips used for record keeping (archaic) / counter for written items (chapter, article, sheet, leaf, page, etc.)

猥褻

June 18, 2013

Japanese Romaji: waisetsu

Japanese Meaning: obscene / obscenity / indecent / dirty

Parts:

wai(mida) - obscene

setsu - dirty

Chinese Pinyin: wěixiè

Chinese Meaning: obscene / obscenity / lewd / indecent / salacious / to molest

Parts:

wěi - vulgar / low / cheap / wanton / obscene / humble / rustic / plentiful

xiè - dirty / obscene / indecent / ragged / licentious / blaspheme / profane / to slight / insult / treat with disrespect

冥府

June 18, 2013

Japanese Romaji: meifu

Japanese Meaning: realm of the dead / hades / sheol

Parts:

mei(kura, myou) - dark

fu(bu, pu) - borough / government office / urban prefecture / metropolitan prefecture (of Osaka or Kyoto) / the centre or seat (of) / center / representative body / storehouse

Chinese Pinyin: míngfǔ

Chinese Meaning: the underworld / Hades / hell

Parts:

míng - dark / gloomy / obscure / dim / dusk / night / deep / profound / stupidity / stupid / far and high / unseen world / the underworld

fǔ - seat of government / government / state organs / government agency / government repository (archive) / official residence / mansion / domicile / presidential palace / warehouse / storehouse / stores / (honorific) your home / (archaic) prefecture / prefect

*Note 1: this term is fairly generic and doesn't strictly refer to any one religion's concept of the afterlife.

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 冥

聾啞/啞

June 19, 2013

Japanese Romaji: roua

Japanese Meaning: deafness / deaf-mute

Parts:

rou(tsunbo, mimishii) - deafness / deafen / deaf person

a - mute (person, etc.) muteness / speech impairment / dumb / become hoarse

Chinese Pinyin: lóngyǎ

Chinese Meaning: a deaf-mute / deaf-and-dumb

Parts:

lóng - deaf / hard of hearing

yǎ(yǎ) - mute (person, etc.) / dumb / speechless / silent / hoarse / husky / unexploded (of artillery shell, etc.) / (onomatopoeia (yǎ)) / sound of laughing / sound made by a crow

*Note 1: “dumb” formerly included the meaning of “inability to speak”, but this term is now considered derogatory.

*Note 2: the picture is of the final gesture used when making certain greetings in Japanese Sign Language (e.g. “good morning”, “good afternoon”, “good evening”) and symbolizes two people bowing.
Source: <http://www.kyoto-be.ne.jp/ed-center/gakko/jsl/>

*Note 3: another variant of the second character is 瘂

鞭撻

June 19, 2013

Japanese Romaji: bentatsu

Japanese Meaning: encouragement / enthusiasm / urging / chastising by whipping

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 鼓勵 (gǔlì) for the meaning of "encouragement"

Parts:

ben(muchi, hen) - whip / lash / scourge / rod / stick / cane / pointer / counter for whippings

tatsu - to strike / to whip / flog

Chinese Pinyin: biāntà

Chinese Meaning: to castigate / to lash / to flog with a whip / to flagellate

Parts:

biān - whip / lash / to flog / to whip / conductor's baton / string of firecrackers / segmented iron weapon (archaic) / whip-like object or weapon / penis (of certain animals, served as food) / pizzle

tà - flog / to whip / to strike / rapid / chastise / (Cantonese) a tart

辜丸

June 20, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kougan

Japanese Meaning: testicles / testes / testis / balls

Parts:

kou - testicles

gan(maru) - circle / round / make round / curl up / roll up / full (e.g. month, day, etc.) / month / whole / complete / perfection / purity / explain away / seduce / suffix for ship names / pills / fishball / meatball / counter for pills

Chinese Pinyin: gāowán

Chinese Meaning: testicle / testes / testis

Parts:

gāo - marsh / testicle / testis

wán - pill / pellet / small round object / small ball / make pills / egg

*Note 1: the picture is based off of tanuki statues which are often used as ornaments in front of Japanese businesses (usually traditional restaurants) for good luck. One distinguishing feature of the statues is their enlarged scrotums which are meant to symbolize “expansion of wealth.” This is possibly derived from how the Japanese slang term for “testicles” literally means “golden balls” and the scrotum can be considered a stretchy sack of gold. Also, Japanese folklore depicts tanuki as mythical creatures with the ability to shapeshift and enlarge their scrotums for various unconventional uses (see the Ghibli movie “Pom Poko”). There is also a traditional schoolyard song which references tanuki testicles.

*Note 2: the Taiwanese variant of this word is 辜丸

糞尿

June 20, 2013

Japanese Romaji: fun'nyou

Japanese Meaning: excreta / feces and urine

Parts:

fun(kuso, guso, pun, baba) - animal excrement / feces / droppings / poop / dookie / (expletive) shit /

bullshit / crap / damn / damned

nyou(shi) - urine

*Note 1: the Japanese word “kuso” is not as profane as the English word “shit”, although their intended meaning is similar (e.g. a 5-year-old child can get away with saying “kuso”).

Chinese Pinyin: fènniào

Chinese Meaning: excreta / manure / sewerage

Parts:

fèn - excrement / feces / faeces / manure / dung / droppings / night soil / apply manure to / fertilize /

clear away / wipe out / get rid of

niào(suī) - urine / to urinate

*Note 2: three variants of the second character are 溺 屙 尿

淫蕩

June 21, 2013

Japanese Romaji: intou

Japanese Meaning: lewdness / dissipation / wanton

Parts:

in(mida) - lewdness / licentiousness

tou(to, toro) - be charmed / captivated / melt

Chinese Pinyin: yíndàng

Chinese Meaning: (especially of women) lewd / lascivious / libidinous / licentious / wanton / profligate / loose in morals / obscene / perverted

Parts:

yín - lewd / wanton / lascivious / obscene / licentious / adulterous / lust / depraved / excess / excessive / extreme / unrestrained

dàng - loiter / loaf around / unsettled / to squander / dissolute / debauched / licentious / loose in morals / to sweep away / wash away / cleanse / rinse / to wash / clean up / get rid of / clean out / swing / sway / wave / to move / to shake / vast / broad and level / large / pond / pool / shallow lake

*Note: two variants of the first character are 姪 and 淫 A variant of the second character is 盪

仲夏

June 21, 2013

Japanese Romaji: chuuka

Japanese Meaning: midsummer

Parts:

chuu(naka) - go-between / relation / relationship / terms

ka(natsu, ge) - summer / Xia (dynasty of China; perhaps mythological)

*Note 1: 仲人 (matchmaker) is read as “nakoudo”

Chinese Pinyin: zhòngxià

Chinese Meaning: midsummer / second month of summer

Parts:

zhòng - middle / intermediate / between two entities / go-between / mediator / second month of a season / middle or second brother / brothers / second (in order of birth)

xià - summer / great / grand / big / spacious / a big house / mansion / the Xia or Hsia dynasty c. 2000 BC

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 𡗗

戊寅

June 22, 2013

Japanese Romaji: boin / tsuchinoetora

Japanese Meaning: fifteenth year of the sexagenary cycle (e.g. 2058)

Parts:

bo(tsuchinoe) - fifth sign of the Chinese calendar / fifth in rank

in(tora) - sign of the tiger (zodiac) / third sign of the Chinese zodiac

Chinese Pinyin: wùyín

Chinese Meaning: fifteenth year of the sexagenary cycle (e.g. 2058)

Parts:

wù - fifth sign of the Chinese calendar / fifth in order / penta

yín - to respect / reverence / respectfully / sign of the tiger (zodiac) / third sign of the Chinese zodiac

*Note: this term is used in the Chinese sexagenary (60-year) cycle as an ancient form of time-keeping. The “10 Heavenly Stems” (甲乙丙丁戊己庚辛壬癸) combine with the “12 Earthly Branches” (子丑寅卯辰巳午未申酉戌亥) to form a cycle of 60 pairs with each one denoting a specific year in the Chinese calendar and repeats every 60 years. The 10 stems can correspond to one of five elements (wood, fire, earth, metal, water) and the 12 branches each correspond to an animal in the Chinese zodiac. Further details are at the link below:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexagenary_cycle

乙卯

June 22, 2013

Japanese Romaji: itsubou / kinotou

Japanese Meaning: fifty-second year of the sexagenary cycle (e.g. 2035)

Parts:

itsu(kinoto, oto, otsu) - second (party to an agreement) / the B party (e.g. in a contract) / the latter / duplicate / strange / quaint / stylish / chic / spicy / queer / witty / tasty / romantic / (slang) thank you / (slang) goodbye / (slang) goodnight / second sign of the Chinese calendar / second in rank
 bou(u) - sign of the hare or rabbit (zodiac) / fourth sign of the Chinese zodiac

*Note 1: the “otsu” reading for the first character is internet slang for お疲れ様 (otsukaresama) which roughly means “you’ve worked hard” or “good job!”

 Chinese Pinyin: yǐmǎo

Chinese Meaning: fifty-second year of the sexagenary cycle (e.g. 2035)

Parts:

yǐ(zhé) - second party (in legal contract) / second (in a list) / second in order / bent / winding / ethyl / second sign of the Chinese calendar / one unit (literary) / turning stroke (in Chinese characters)
 mǎo - mortise (slot cut into wood to receive a tenon) / sign of the hare or rabbit (zodiac) / fourth sign of the Chinese zodiac

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 𠂇 A variant of the second character is 卯

*Note 3: this term is used in the Chinese sexagenary (60-year) cycle as an ancient form of time-keeping. The “10 Heavenly Stems” (甲乙丙丁戊己庚辛壬癸) combine with the “12 Earthly Branches” (子丑寅卯辰巳午未申酉戌亥) to form a cycle of 60 pairs with each one denoting a specific year in the Chinese calendar and repeats every 60 years. The 10 stems can correspond to one of five elements (wood, fire, earth, metal, water) and the 12 branches each correspond to an animal in the Chinese zodiac. Further details are at the link below:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexagenary_cycle

庚戌

June 23, 2013

Japanese Romaji: koujutsu / kanoeinu

Japanese Meaning: forty-seventh year of the sexagenary cycle (e.g. 2030)

Parts:

kou(kanoe) - seventh sign of the Chinese calendar / seventh in rank

jutsu(inu) - sign of the dog (zodiac) / eleventh sign of the Chinese zodiac

Chinese Pinyin: gēngxū

Chinese Meaning: forty-seventh year of the sexagenary cycle (e.g. 2030)

Parts:

gēng - age (of a person) / seventh sign of the Chinese calendar / seventh in order / hepta

xū - sign of the dog (zodiac) / eleventh sign of the Chinese zodiac / latch / bolt / bar / hasp / fasten with a bolt, hasp, etc.

*Note: this term is used in the Chinese sexagenary (60-year) cycle as an ancient form of time-keeping. The “10 Heavenly Stems” (甲乙丙丁戊己庚辛壬癸) combine with the “12 Earthly Branches” (子丑寅卯辰巳午未申酉戌亥) to form a cycle of 60 pairs with each one denoting a specific year in the Chinese calendar and repeats every 60 years. The 10 stems can correspond to one of five elements (wood, fire, earth, metal, water) and the 12 branches each correspond to an animal in the Chinese zodiac. Further details are at the link below:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexagenary_cycle

丙辰

June 23, 2013

Japanese Romaji: heishin / hinoetatsu

Japanese Meaning: fifty-third year of the sexagenary cycle (e.g. 2036)

Parts:

hei(hinoe) - third class / third sign of the Chinese calendar / third in rank

shin(tatsu) - sign of the dragon (zodiac) / fifth sign of the Chinese zodiac

Chinese Pinyin: bǐngchén

Chinese Meaning: fifty-third year of the sexagenary cycle (e.g. 2036)

Parts:

bǐng - third / third sign of the Chinese calendar / third in order / propyl

chén - early morning / a time / fortune / luck / a heavenly body / sun, moon, and stars / sign of the dragon (zodiac) / fifth sign of the Chinese zodiac

*Note: this term is used in the Chinese sexagenary (60-year) cycle as an ancient form of time-keeping. The “10 Heavenly Stems” (甲乙丙丁戊己庚辛壬癸) combine with the “12 Earthly Branches” (子丑寅卯辰巳午未申酉戌亥) to form a cycle of 60 pairs with each one denoting a specific year in the Chinese calendar and repeats every 60 years. The 10 stems can correspond to one of five elements (wood, fire, earth, metal, water) and the 12 branches each correspond to an animal in the Chinese zodiac. Further details are at the link below:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexagenary_cycle

社稷/社

June 24, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shashoku

Japanese Meaning: Sheji (gods of earth and grain) / altars to earth and grain gods / (metaphor) the state / country / the nation

Parts:

sha(yashiro, ja) - shrine (usually Shinto) / association / company / society / a firm / office / regional

Chinese god of the earth (or a village built in its honour) / counter for companies, shrines, etc.

shoku(kibi) - millet

Chinese Pinyin: shèjì

Chinese Meaning: Sheji (gods of earth and grain) / altars to earth and grain gods / (metaphor) the state / country / the nation

Parts:

shè - society / group / community / club / agency / company / association / organization / corporation / group of families / (archaic) god of the soil and altars to him / god of land

jì - (panicked) millet / god of cereals worshipped by ancient rulers / god of grain / minister of agriculture

*Note 1: this is an archaic term which can be used to refer to something of worship or to metaphorically refer to the country. (For further details: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soil_and_grain)

*Note 2: the picture is of the altar at the Beijing Shejitan (北京社稷壇)

*Note 3: a variant of the second character is 稷

畢竟

June 24, 2013

Japanese Romaji: hikkyou

Japanese Meaning: after all

Parts:

hitsu(owa) - finish / the end

kyou(owa, tsui) - end / finally

Chinese Pinyin: bìjìng

Chinese Meaning: after all / all in all / in the long run / in the end / ultimately / when all is said and done / in the final analysis

Parts:

bì - end / to finish / conclude / accomplish / to complete / full / finished / the whole of / altogether

jìng - finish / complete / accomplish / finally / after all / at last / (of time) throughout / whole /

unexpectedly / surprisingly / daringly / actually / to go so far as to / indeed

目的

July 1, 2013

*Note: there are still several characters that I can't draw in pairs without repeating something so I am now switching to pairs with only one new character. Words on orange paper have the new character on the right side.

Japanese Romaji: mokuteki

Japanese Meaning: purpose / goal / aim / objective / intention

Parts:

moku(ma, me, boku) - eye / eyeball / eyesight / sight / vision / look / stare / glance / insight / experience / viewpoint / favor / care / stitch / texture / weave / class / category / ordinal number suffix (-st, -nd, -rd, -th, etc.) / somewhat / -ish / (biological) order / item (of a budget revision, etc.) / counter for go pieces / counter for surrounded positions (in go)

teki(mato) - bull's eye / object / target / mark / adjective ending / (suffix) -like (e.g. catlike) / typical

Chinese Pinyin: mùdì

Chinese Meaning: purpose / goal / aim / objective / target

Parts:

mù - eye / look / see / regard / item / section / list / catalogue / table of contents / order (taxonomy) / division / category / topic / goal / name / title

dì(de, dí) - aim / clear / bull's eye / target / mark / of / 's (possessive particle) / adjectival suffix / (used after an attribute) / final particle / (used to form a nominal expression) / (used at the end of a declarative sentence for emphasis) / really and truly / indeed

森林

July 2, 2013

*Note: there are still several characters that I can't draw in pairs without repeating something so I am now switching to pairs with only one new character. Words on green paper have the new character on the left side.

Japanese Romaji: shinrin

Japanese Meaning: forest / woods / timber

Parts:

shin(mori) - forest / woods / shrine grove

rin(hayashi) - forest / woods / grove / copse / thicket

Chinese Pinyin: sēnlín

Chinese Meaning: forest

Parts:

sēn - forest / luxuriant vegetation / luxuriant growth of trees / dark and obscure / severe / serene / majestic

lín - forest / woods / grove / copse / thicket / circle (of people) / many / numerous / a great body of (capable persons, etc.) / a collection (of similar things; books, works, etc.)

紳士

July 3, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shinshi

Japanese Meaning: gentleman

Parts:

shin - gentleman / sire / good belt

shi(ji) - gentleman / samurai

*Note 1: 戦士 (senshi) means “soldier” or “warrior”; 武士 (bushi) means “samurai” or “warrior”; 博士 (hakase) means “doctor” (someone with a PhD, etc.)

Chinese Pinyin: shēnshì

Chinese Meaning: gentleman / gentry

Parts:

shēn - member of gentry / gentleman / gentry / the middle class as a group or individuals / girdle / sash / tie / bind

shì - gentleman / specialist worker / scholar / soldier / non-commissioned officer / first class military rank / lowest-ranked noble / honorific for men / bachelor / official in charge of criminal justice / member of the senior ministerial class (archaism)

*Note 2: 戰士 (zhànshì) means “soldier” or “warrior”; 武士 (wǔshì) means “samurai” or “warrior”; 博士 (bóshì) means “doctor” (someone with a PhD, etc.)

書架

July 4, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shoka

Japanese Meaning: bookshelf / bookcase

Parts:

sho(ka, ga, gaki) - write / document / book / penmanship / handwriting / calligraphy (especially Chinese)

ka - shelf / frame / rack / mount / support / construct / to erect / unit of equipment

Chinese Pinyin: shūjià

Chinese Meaning: bookshelf / bookcase

Parts:

shū - book / letter / writings / document / certificate / write / describe / style of calligraphy / script

jià - shelf / frame / rack / stand / framework / to support / to prop / prop up / to erect / set up / fight / quarrel / counter for planes, large vehicles, radios, etc.

經由/經

July 5, 2013

Japanese Romaji: keiyu

Japanese Meaning: via / by way of / through

Parts:

kei(ta, tate, tateito, he, kyou) - pass through / expire / longitude / warp (in fabric) / sutra / Buddhist scriptures / the vertical / height / front-to-back / length / north-to-south / vertical (relationship) / hierarchy / (weaving) warp

yu(yoshi, yo, yui, yuu) - a reason / significance / cause / wherefore

*Note 1: in Japanese, 経緯 (particulars of a story) is read as "ikisatsu"

Chinese Pinyin: jīngyóu

Chinese Meaning: via

Parts:

jīng - pass through / pass by / undergo / longitude / warp (in fabric) / things running lengthwise / religious scripture / sacred book / classics / books of significant value / common or customary ways / rules / regulations / plan / arrange / regulate / rule / manage / deal in / engage / to stand / to bear / endure / menses / human arteries, etc. / as a result / after

yóu - to follow / from / it is for ... to / up to / by / through / reason / cause / source / derivation / because of / due to / to / to leave it (to somebody) / by (introduces passive verb)

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 逕

翌日

July 6, 2013

Japanese Romaji: yokujitsu

Japanese Meaning: the next day

Parts:

yoku - next (day, year, morning, etc) / the following

jitsu(ka, hi, bi, nichi, ni) - sun / sunshine / sunlight / day / days / daytime / case (especially unfortunate) / event / day of month / Sunday / Japan / Japanese / counter for days

*Note 1: the second character also has other special readings in common Japanese phrases: 今日 (kyou - today) / 明日 (ashita/asu - tomorrow) / 昨日 (kinou - yesterday) / 一昨日 (ototoi/issakujitsu - the day before yesterday) / 一昨々日 (sakiototoi/issakusakujitsu - three days back)

Chinese Pinyin: yìrì

Chinese Meaning: the next day

Parts:

yì - next (day, year, morning, etc) / bright / daybreak / dawn / the next day / tomorrow

rì - sun / day / date / day of the month / daytime / daily / everyday / time / Japan / Japanese / counter for days

*Note 2: the difference between this word and “tomorrow” is that “tomorrow” is used in relation to “today” whereas this word can be used relative to any day.

*Note 3: a variant of the first character in Chinese is 翼, which is also a separate character. A variant of the second character is 𠂔

虚偽/虚

July 7, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kyogi

Japanese Meaning: falsehood / lie / untrue / fiction / deception / vanity

Parts:

kyo(utsu, muna, uro, ko) - crack / emptiness / fissure / void / hollow / cavity / hole / unpreparedness / untruth / falsehood

gi(itsuwa, nise) - falsehood / forgery / counterfeit / imitation / fake / phony / bogus / sham / deceive / lie / pretend / pseudo- / (logic) false

Chinese Pinyin: xūwěi

Chinese Meaning: false / fake / spurious / hypocritical / insincere / hypocrisy / artificial / sham

Parts:

xū - emptiness / empty / void / hollow / unoccupied / diffident / timid / false / worthless / unreal / deceptive / unfounded / groundless / humble / modest / weak (health) / feeble / abstract theory / guiding principles / shapeless / virtual / in vain

wěi(wèi) - false / fake / counterfeit / forged / bogus / illegal

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: another variant of the first character is 虚 A variant of the second character is 偽

往昔

July 8, 2013

Japanese Romaji: ouseki

Japanese Meaning: ancient times / in the past

Parts:

ou(i, yu) - going / journey / travel / let go / chase away

seki(mukashi, jaku) - once upon a time / once / old times / the past / olden days / former / antiquity / ancient

Chinese Pinyin: wǎngxī

Chinese Meaning: in the past / in ancient times

Parts:

wǎng - to go (in a direction) / to / towards / depart / (of a train) bound for / past / previous / formerly / bygone / an adverb indicating time or direction

xī(xí) - former times / formerly / the past / ancient / in the beginning

*Note: a variant of the first character is 徃 A variant of the second character is 簪

交付

July 9, 2013

Japanese Romaji: koufu

Japanese Meaning: delivering / handing over / grant / issuance / issuing / furnishing (e.g. with copies) / transfer / service

Japanese to Chinese Translation: see note

Parts:

kou(ka, ma, maji) - association / mingle / mixing / coming and going

fu(tsu, dzu, tsuki, tsuke, dzuke, pu) - append / adhere / attach / refer to / with / including / appearance / state / condition / dated (e.g. a letter) / date of effect (e.g. a rule change)

Chinese Pinyin: jiāofù

Chinese Meaning: to hand over / to deliver / to turn over / to make payment

Chinese to Japanese Translation: see note

Parts:

jiāo - to hand over / to hand in / submit / transfer / to deliver / to pay (money) / to turn over / mix / to intersect (lines) / to cross / exchange / communicate / to make friends / friendship / be on good terms with / come into contact with / meet / come close to / join / alternate / engage in / simultaneously / each other / unite in sexual intercourse

fù - give / deliver (goods) / consign / hand over to / pay (money) / entrust / put in somebody's charge / put into (action)

*Note: in Japanese, this term is limited to the delivery or issuance of things such as money (grants, scholarships, etc.) or official documents (passports, ID cards, etc.) from governments or organizations. The Chinese term is more general and can refer to the "handing over" of payments, goods, etc. from and to anyone.

語彙

July 10, 2013

Japanese Romaji: goi

Japanese Meaning: vocabulary / lexicon / terminology / lexis

Parts:

go(kata, gata) - language / speech / words / expressions / a term

i - same kind

Chinese Pinyin: yǔhuì

Chinese Meaning: vocabulary

Parts:

yǔ(yù) - language / speech / dialect / words / expressions / saying / proverb / set phrase / sign / signal / speak / say / talk / tell

huì - class / collection / assemblage / compile / collect / gather together / assemble / hedgehog

*Note: a variant of the second character is 彙 In Chinese, the second character has the same simplified form as 匯

雑誌/雜

July 11, 2013

Japanese Romaji: zasshi

Japanese Meaning: magazine / journal / periodical

Parts:

zatsu(maji, zou) - miscellaneous / rough / crude / sloppy / messy / miscellany (classification of Japanese poetry unrelated to the seasons or to love)

shi - document / records / counter for magazines

Chinese Pinyin: zázhì

Chinese Meaning: magazine / journal / periodical

Parts:

zá - mixed / blended / mix / blend / mingle / miscellaneous / various / motley / medley / petty and numerous

zhì - annals / record / journal / magazine / sign / mark / symbol / to record / write down / to write a footnote / keep in mind / memorize

*Note: another variant of the first character is 襍

照明

July 12, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shoumei

Japanese Meaning: illumination / lighting

Parts:

shou(te, de, jou) - illuminate / shine / bashful / compare

mei(a, aka, aki, myou, min) - bright / light / brightness / clarity / acumen / power of vision

*Note 1: 明日 (tomorrow) can have the reading of “ashita” or “asu”

Chinese Pinyin: zhàomíng

Chinese Meaning: illumination / lighting

Parts:

zhào - to shine / to illuminate / light / sunshine / to reflect / to look at (one's reflection) / to take (a photo) / photo / to photograph / shoot / pattern on or after / according to / in accordance with / as requested / as before / compare / collate / survey / certificate / license / look after / take care of / notify / proclaim

míng - bright / light / brilliant / clear (meaning) / to understand / understandable / clarify / obvious / evident / next (day or year) / public / open / wise / intelligent / clever / eyesight / seeing faculty / day / daybreak / dawn / to state / show / assert / generic term for a sacrifice to the gods

*Note 2: 4 variants of the first character are 墨墨炤炤 A variant of the second character is 𠄎

新郎

July 13, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shinrou

Japanese Meaning: bridegroom / groom

Parts:

shin(ata, ara, nii) - new / neo-

rou - son / counter for sons

Chinese Pinyin: xīnláng

Chinese Meaning: bridegroom / groom

Parts:

xīn - new / newly / recent / fresh / novel / modern / beginning / starting / neo- / meso- (chemistry)

láng - gentleman / young man / husband / beau / son of another person / a youth / category of persons such as women, students, etc. / (archaic) minister / official / noun prefix denoting function or status

*Note: 2 variants of the second character are 郎 and 郎

琴瑟

July 14, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kinshitsu

Japanese Meaning: qin and se (two different kinds of Chinese zither) / happy marriage / marital harmony

Parts:

kin(koto, goto, gon) - koto (13-stringed Japanese zither) / qin (7-stringed Chinese zither) / guqin / harp
shitsu - se (ancient Chinese plucked zither, with variants containing 5-50 strings) / large koto

Chinese Pinyin: qínsè

Chinese Meaning: qin and se, two Chinese string instruments that play in perfect harmony / happy marriage / marital harmony

Parts:

qín - qin (7-stringed Chinese zither) / guqin or zither / Chinese lute or guitar / musical instrument in general, especially stringed, piano, etc.

sè - se (ancient Chinese plucked zither, with variants containing 5-50 strings) / varied and many / dignified / elegant / stately / majestic / massive / sound of wind / bright and clean / pure and clean

*Note: 2 variants of the first character are 瑟 and 琴

校閲/閲

July 15, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kouetsu

Japanese Meaning: revision / proofreading

Parts:

kou(kyou, gyō) - school / exam / correction / printing / proof (of a book, document, etc.) / counter for proofs

etsu(kemi) - inspection / review / revision

Chinese Pinyin: jiàoyuè

Chinese Meaning: to check through (a document) / to proofread / to review (troops)

Parts:

jiào(xiào) - to proofread / to check / to compare / school / military field officer

yuè - to inspect / to review / examine / to read / to peruse / to go over (something) / study / to go through / to experience / pass through

取捨

July 16, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shusha

Japanese Meaning: choice / option / selection / rejection or adoption

Parts:

shu(to, do) - take / take up / fetch

sha(su, zu) - abandon / discard / reject / resign / sacrifice / throw away

Chinese Pinyin: qǔshě

Chinese Meaning: to choose / to accept or reject / make one's choice

Parts:

qǔ - to take / to get / receive / obtain / to fetch / take hold of / to choose / select / summon / recall / marry / take a wife

shě - to abandon / discard / to give up (willingly) / forego / to give alms / dispense charity

並列

July 17, 2013

Japanese Romaji: heiretsu

Japanese Meaning: parallel / stand in a row / arrangement / juxtaposition / abreast

Parts:

hei(na, nami, nara) - line up / rank with / row (e.g. of houses) / line (of things) / average / medium / ordinary / common / mid-grade / and / as well as / besides / equal / rival / same level / each (e.g. month) / set of (e.g. teeth)

retsu(tsura) - column / row / queue / line / tier / rank / file / train / sequence / string

Chinese Pinyin: bìngliè

Chinese Meaning: parallel / to stand side by side / to be juxtaposed

Parts:

bìng - simultaneously / at the same time / to combine / to join / to merge / side by side / equal to / on the same level with / even / and / furthermore / moreover / what is more / also / together with / parallel with / both / (not) at all / really (to enforce a negative) / entirely / completely

liè - to arrange in order / to line up / enumerate / classify / row / file / a line / series / column / to display

*Note 1: the Japanese term is more often used in a technical context (e.g. parallel circuits, parallel computing, etc.) whereas the Chinese term is more general.

*Note 2: 3 variants of the first character are 並 伋 仝

混沌

July 18, 2013

Japanese Romaji: konton

Japanese Meaning: chaos / confusion / disorder / chaotic / confused / uncertain / disarrayed / primal chaos

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 混亂 (hùnlùn) for “chaos” or “confusion” in general

Parts:

kon(ko, ma) - blend / confuse / mix / mixed / opposite of pure

ton - primeval chaos

Chinese Pinyin: hùndùn

Chinese Meaning: chaos / primal chaos / formless mass before creation in Chinese mythology / the primordial world / muddled / unclearness / indistinctness / obscurity / vagueness / obfuscation / abysm / nebulous / innocent as a child

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 無邪気な子供の頃 (mujaki na kodomo no koro) for “innocent as a child”

Parts:

hùn(hún) - to mix / blend / to mingle / muddled / to drift along / to muddle along / to bumble along / fool around / to pass for / to confuse / to get along with somebody / thoughtless / reckless / foolish / stupid / wretched / confused / dirty / muddy / turbid / foul

dùn - chaotic / confused / turbid / murky

*Note: in Japanese, this word can alternatively be written as 渾沌. In Chinese, the first character of today's word is a variant of 渾

重荷

July 19, 2013

Japanese Romaji: omoni

Japanese Meaning: heavy burden / load / encumbrance / heavy freight / heavy responsibility

Parts:

omo(e, kasa, juu, chou) - heavy / weighty / heap up / pile up / nest of boxes / chief / main / principal / important / greater degree / serious / severe / (suffix) -fold / (suffix) -ply / layer / number of overlaps
ni(nina, ka, ga) - baggage / cargo / freight / load / goods / bear (a burden) / burden / responsibility / shoulder (a gun) / shoulder-pole load / counter for loads (that can be carried on one's shoulders)

*Note: 稲荷 is read as "inari"

Chinese Pinyin: zhòng hè

Chinese Meaning: heavy load / heavy burden

Parts:

zhòng(chóng) - heavy / weighty / weight / strong / much / deep / thick / considerable in amount or value / serious / grave / severe / solemn / composed / discreet / important / prudent / significant / respect / strategic / to attach importance to / lay stress on / difficult / value / emphasize / to double / to repeat / repetition / duplicate / iteration / multiple / again / anew / afresh / once more / layer / overlapping / (prefix) re- / classifier / layer
hè(hé) - burden / responsibility / to carry on one's shoulder or back / to shoulder / to bear / to hold / load / (electrical) charge / grateful / obliged / lotus / water lily / Holland / the Netherlands / Dutch

細胞

July 20, 2013

Japanese Romaji: saibou

Japanese Meaning: (biology) cell

Parts:

sai(sasa, saza, koma, hoso, boso) - detail / details / slender / narrow / taper / get thin / narrowness / weak / small / little / fine / dainty / fine thread / hempen cord

bou(hou, pou) - sac / placenta / sheath

*Note: 同胞 has an alternative reading of “harakara”

Chinese Pinyin: xìbāo

Chinese Meaning: (biology) cell

Parts:

xì - thin / slender / slim / tall but lean / finely particulate / thin and soft / fine / tiny / small / little / delicate (workmanship, etc.) / exquisite / precise / detailed / trifling / petty / quiet (sound) / frugal

bāo - placenta / womb / afterbirth / fetal membrane / born of the same parents / siblings / blood (relationship) / compatriot / fellow countryman

醜惡/惡

July 21, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shuuaku

Japanese Meaning: ugliness / unsightly / hideous / disgusting / horrible / abominable / repulsive / scandalous / monstrous / meanness / offensiveness

Parts:

shuu(miniku, bu) - ugly / bad looking / shame / unclean

aku(a, niku, waru, o) - bad / evil / foul / wickedness / bad thing / bad person / false / wrong / vice

Chinese Pinyin: chǒu'è

Chinese Meaning: ugly / repulsive

Parts:

chǒu - ugly looking / unsightly / abominable / homely / shameful / disgraceful / scandalous / disgrace / shame / scandal

è(ě, wù) - bad / evil / wicked / foul / fierce / ferocious / mean / vicious / vice / ugly / disgust / sicken / scorn / coarse / to harm / to hate / detest / dislike / abhor / to loathe / ashamed / to fear / to slander / how / where / oh / ah

*Note: a Chinese variant of the first character is 𪛗 2 more Chinese variants of the second character are 噁 and 𪛗

卵黄/黄

July 22, 2013

Japanese Romaji: ran'ou

Japanese Meaning: egg yolk

Parts:

ran(tamago) - egg / ovum / roe / spawn / hen egg / (an expert) in the making

ou(ki, ko, kou) - yellow

*Note 1: in Japanese, 黄昏 (dusk, twilight) has a reading of "tasogare". 黄昏れる (to fade into dusk, to decline, to wane) has the reading of "tasogareru".

Chinese Pinyin: luǎnhuáng

Chinese Meaning: egg yolk

Parts:

luǎn - egg / ovum / roe / spawn / testicles

huáng - yellow / to fall through

*Note 2: in Chinese, this is more commonly known as 蛋黄 (dànhuáng)

*Note 3: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

以外

July 23, 2013

Japanese Romaji: igai

Japanese Meaning: except for / with the exception of / excepting / excluding / besides / in addition to
Parts:

i(motsu) - compared with / in view of / because / by means of

gai(soto, to, hazu, hoka, ge) - outside / exterior / open air / other place / foreign / other (places, things, etc.) / except / the rest / outside of / not covered by

*Note 1: 以て is read as “motte”; 所以 is read as “yuen”

Chinese Pinyin: yǐwài

Chinese Meaning: except for / apart from / other than / external / outside of / on the other side of / beyond

Parts:

yǐ - to use / according to / so as to / by means of / in order to / thereby / therefore / consider as / by / with / indicating implement / instrumentality / because of / giving cause

wài - outside / out / external / foreign / alien / diplomatic / diplomacy / in addition / besides / alienate / a role in Chinese opera for old men / a term referring to one's husband / on wife's or mother's side / relatives of one's sisters or daughters

*Note 2: 2 variants of the first character are 𠂔 and 𠂔

類似/類

July 24, 2013

Japanese Romaji: ruiji

Japanese Meaning: resemblance / similarity / analogous / quasi / to resemble / to be similar / to be alike

Parts:

rui(tagu) - a kind / sort / class / variety / family / genus

ji(ni, ne) - imitate / resemble / takes after (his mother, etc.) / becoming / suitable / counterfeit

*Note 1: 似非 (sham) is read as “ese”

Chinese Pinyin: lèisì

Chinese Meaning: similar / analogous

Parts:

lèi - a kind / type / class / group / category / species / race / similar / alike / good / virtue / to resemble / biased / prejudiced / a kind of wildcat

sì - to seem / to appear / to resemble / similar to / as if / -like / pseudo- / (more) than

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 侶

歌姫/姫

July 25, 2013

Japanese Romaji: utahime

Japanese Meaning: songstress / diva

Parts:

uta(ka) - song / sing / modern poetry / classical Japanese poetry

hime(ki) - princess / lady / noblewoman / young lady of noble birth / girl / small and lovely / prefix
expressing cuteness or smallness

Chinese Pinyin: gējī

Chinese Meaning: female singer / songstress

Parts:

gē - song / to sing / lyrics / chant / praise / poems with rhythms and rhymes suitable for use as lyrics in songs

jī - woman / beauty / beautiful lady / charming girl / imperial concubine / female entertainer (archaic)

*Note: a variant of the first character is 謳

迷彩

July 26, 2013

Japanese Romaji: meisai

Japanese Meaning: camouflage / disguise

Parts:

mei(mayo) - astray / be perplexed / err / illusion / in doubt / lost

sai(irodo, aya) - coloring / makeup / paint

Chinese Pinyin: mícǎi

Chinese Meaning: camouflage

Parts:

mí - vague / indistinct / dim / bewitch / charm / enchant / fascinate / infatuate / fan / enthusiast / fiend
/ be crazy about / to bewilder / lost / confused

cǎi - hue / (bright) color / colours / colors / variegated colors / ornamental / brilliant / gay / variety /
applause / applaud / lottery prize / stakes in a gambling game / prize money / makeup in various
Chinese operas / special feats or stunts in Chinese operas

*Note: 2 variants of the second character are 采 and 綵

系統

July 27, 2013

Japanese Romaji: keitou

Japanese Meaning: system / family line / geological formation / lineage / ancestry / genealogy

Parts:

kei - lineage / system / group / family / (math) corollary / (geological) system (range of strata that correspond to a particular time period) / (taxonomical) series

tou(su) - governing / overall / ruling / relationship

Chinese Pinyin: xìtǒng

Chinese Meaning: system / organization

Parts:

xì - system / series / set / department / faculty / line / link / connection

tǒng - govern / command / control / to rule / to gather / to unite / to unify / whole / wholly / totally / completely / generally / all / succession / consecutive generations / from generation to generation

*Note 1: the first character is also the simplified Chinese version of 係 and 繫

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 統

關係/關

July 28, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kankei

Japanese Meaning: relation / relationship / connection / participation / involvement / concern / influence / effect / sexual relations / sexual relationship / related to... / connected to...

Parts:

kan(kaka, seki, zeki) - barrier / gate / gateway / concerning / connection / involve / honorific added to names of makuuchi and juryo division sumo wrestlers

kei(kaka, gaka, kakawa, kakari, gakari) - concern oneself / connection / linking / duty / person in charge / charge / duty / an official / clerk

Chinese Pinyin: guānxi

Chinese Meaning: relation / relationship / connection / to concern / to affect / to have to do with

Parts:

guān - mountain pass / frontier pass / checkpoint / the bar across the door / customs house / customs barrier / key point / turning point / to concern / to involve / relation / relationship / related / to close / to shut off / to turn off / negotiate / go between / draw (money, pay)

xi(xì) - to connect / to relate to / relationship / relation / consequence / involve / to tie up / to bind / to be (literary) / (Cantonese) yes / (Cantonese) is

*Note 1: in Chinese, this word can alternatively be written as 關係

*Note 2: the simplified Chinese version of the first character is 关, the same as the character inside the 門 of the Japanese version.

*Note 3: another variant of the first character is 關

噴泉

July 29, 2013

Japanese Romaji: funsen

Japanese Meaning: fountain / a spring

Parts:

fun(fu) - emit / erupt / spout / flush out

sen(izumi) - fountain / spring (small stream)

Chinese Pinyin: pēnquán

Chinese Meaning: fountain

Parts:

pēn(pèn) - gush / spurt / to puff out / to blow out / to spout / to spray / sprinkle / fragrant

quán - spring (small stream) / mouth of a spring / fountain / wellspring / coin (archaic) / wealth / money
/ nether regions / world of the dead

*Note: a variant of the first character is 噴

叫喚

July 30, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kyoukan

Japanese Meaning: shout / scream

Parts:

kyou(sake, take) - shout / yell / exclaim

kan(yo, wame) - scream / cry / yell

Chinese Pinyin: jiàohuan

Chinese Meaning: to cry out / to call out / to bark out a sound / to shout / to summon

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 呼ぶ (yobu) for “calling out to someone”

Parts:

jiào - to shout / to call / to cry out / scream / to hail / to greet / to order / to ask / to be called / known as / summon / cause / by (indicates agent in the passive mood)

huan(huàn) - to call / summon / invite / be called / arouse

*Note 1: 2 variants of the first character are 叫 and 𪗇

*Note 2: the Chinese meaning is more general as it includes any sounds coming out of a living thing's mouth.

象徵/徴

July 31, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shouchou

Japanese Meaning: symbol

Parts:

shou(katado, zou) - elephant / phenomenon / image / shape / pattern after / imitate / sign (of the times)

chou(shirushi, chi) - sign / indications / omen / symptom / refer to / collect / question / seek / 4th note in the pentatonic scale

Chinese Pinyin: xiàngzhēng

Chinese Meaning: symbol / emblem / insignia / logo / icon / token / badge / to symbolize / to signify / to stand for

Parts:

xiàng - elephant / shape / form / figure / portrait / outward appearance of anything (weather, heavenly bodies, etc.) / image / snapshot / phenomenon / to imitate / likeness / ivory

zhēng(zhǐ) - to request / to impose (taxes) / collect / requisition / solicit / summon / recruit / conscript / to levy (troops) / to draft (for military service) / call up / phenomenon / symptom / characteristic sign (used as proof) / evidence / portent / proof / musical note / 4th note in the pentatonic scale

珍品

August 1, 2013

Japanese Romaji: chinpin

Japanese Meaning: curio / rare article / a rarity / collector's item

Parts:

chin(meizura) - rare / strange / curious

pin(shina, hin) - article / item / thing / goods / stock / product / commodity / quality / flirtatiousness /

coquetry / dignity / elegance / grace / class / refinement / counter for meal courses, dishes, etc. /

counter for items (of food, etc.)

Chinese Pinyin: zhēnpǐn

Chinese Meaning: valuable object / curio

Parts:

zhēn - precious thing / treasure / valuables / culinary delicacy / delicate food / dainty / rare / valuable /
to value highly / place high value on

pǐn - article / product / commodity / goods / kind / grade / rank / personality / character / disposition /
nature / temperament / variety / to taste something / to sample / to criticize / to comment / to judge /
to size up / appraise / rate / find out / a rank or grade in the government service in former times / fret
(of a stringed musical instrument)

*Note: a variant of the first character is 玢

幻滅

August 2, 2013

Japanese Romaji: genmetsu

Japanese Meaning: disillusionment

Parts:

gen(maboroshi) - illusion / apparition / phantom / phantasm / dream / vision

metsu(horo, me) - destroy / overthrow / fall / collapse / perish / ruin / disappear

Chinese Pinyin: huànmìè

Chinese Meaning: disillusionment / to disillusion / vanishing (illusions, hopes, aspirations, etc.)

Parts:

huàn - fantasy / illusion / mirage / hallucination / magic / illusory / unreal / deceptive / changeable / mystical / mysterious

mìè - to destroy / annihilate / do away with / eradicate / to extinguish / to put out / to go out (of a fire, etc.) / to exterminate / to wipe out / disappear / perish / submerge / to drown

唯一

August 3, 2013

Japanese Romaji: yuiitsu / yuitsu

Japanese Meaning: only / sole / unique

Parts:

yui(tada, i, yu) - merely / only / simply / solely / just / ordinary / common / usual / free of charge / unaffected / as is / safe / but/ however / nonetheless

itsu(hito, ichi) - one / unity / the beginning / best in... / the most... (adjective)

Chinese Pinyin: wéiyī

Chinese Meaning: only / sole

Parts:

wéi(wěi) - only / alone / unique / -ism / yes

yī - one / single / alone / unit / a / an / the / as soon as / once / each / per / every time / another / entire / whole / all / throughout / complete / union / uniformity / uniform / unify / unite / so / such / to such extent / same / together / a little

*Note: a variant of this word in Chinese is 惟一

天災

August 4, 2013

Japanese Romaji: tensai

Japanese Meaning: natural disaster / natural calamity

Parts:

ten(ama, ame) - heaven / sky

sai(wazawa) - calamity / disaster / curse / evil / woe

Chinese Pinyin: tiānzāi

Chinese Meaning: natural disaster / scourge

Parts:

tiān - day / heaven / sky / celestial / god / godly / top of one's head / nature / natural

zāi - calamity / disaster / catastrophe

*Note: 2 variants of the first character are 天 and 𠀤 2 variants of the second character are 災 and 菑

慶祝

August 5, 2013

Japanese Romaji: keishuku

Japanese Meaning: congratulation / celebration

Parts:

kei(yoroko, kyou, gyou) - be happy / congratulate / jubilation / rejoice

shuku(iwa, shuu) - congratulate / celebrate / blessing

Chinese Pinyin: qìngzhù

Chinese Meaning: to celebrate / celebration

Parts:

qìng - celebrate / congratulate / rejoice / celebration / festivity / commemoration

zhù - to express good wishes / to wish (someone happiness) / to pray for happiness or blessings / bless /

boon / exalting / congratulate / felicitate / celebrate / a spell / enchantment / ensorcellment /

incantation / mantra / chant

*Note: a variant of the second character is 祝

河川

August 6, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kasen

Japanese Meaning: rivers

Parts:

ka(ga, kawa, gawa) - river / stream

sen(kawa, gawa, ka) - river / stream / brook

Chinese Pinyin: héchuān

Chinese Meaning: rivers

Parts:

hé - river / stream / yellow river

chuān - river / stream / brook / creek / a plain / an area of level country / flow / constant flow / boil with water / Sichuan Province

*Note: a variant of the second character is 𣶒

循環

August 7, 2013

Japanese Romaji: junkan

Japanese Meaning: circulation / rotation / cycle

Parts:

jun - sequential / follow

kan(tamaki, wa) - ring / circle / loop / link / band / hoop / wheel / circle (of friends) / (archaism) bracelet (made of stringed jewels or bells and worn at the elbow) / bracer (for the elbow of an archer)

Chinese Pinyin: xúnhuán

Chinese Meaning: to cycle / to circulate / to loop / circle

Parts:

xún - to follow / to adhere to / to abide by / obey / comply with

huán - ring / hoop / loop / (chain) link / bracelet / earrings for women / ear-ornaments / to surround / to encircle / surrounding / around / round / to hem in / jade ring or bracelet / counter for scores in archery

分割

August 8, 2013

Japanese Romaji: bunkatsu

Japanese Meaning: partition / division / separation / segmenting / splitting

Parts:

bun(wa, fun, pun, bu) - minute / one-tenth / one percent (one-tenth of a wari) / chances / part / segment / a share / ration / rate / degree / one's lot / one's status / relation / duty / kind / lot / in proportion to / just as much as / thickness / advantageous circumstances / know / understand / 3 mm (one-tenth of a sun) / 2.4 mm (one-tenth of a mon, a traditional unit used to measure shoe sizes) / 0.375 grams (one-tenth of a monme) / 0.1 degree (one-tenth of a do, used to measure body temperature on any temperature scale) / one-quarter of a ryou (obsolete unit of currency)

katsu(sa, wa, wari) - cut / divide / separate / split / comparatively / proportion / rate / ratio / percentage / profit / assignment / ten percent / sumo match / schedule of sumo matches / diluted with (of drinks) / mixed with

Chinese Pinyin: fēngē

Chinese Meaning: to divide up / to cut up / to cut apart / to break up / segmentation

Parts:

fēn(fèn) - minute / one-tenth / one percent / one cent / to divide / to separate / to allocate / distribute / assign / allot / to distinguish (between good and bad) / differentiate / tell apart / part / subdivision / fraction / percentage / a point (in sports or games) / mark / score / share / ingredient / component / located separately / branch / one point / unit of length (centimeter), area, weight, money (one cent), interest rate, time (one minute), etc. / unit to express fractions and percentages / unit of length equivalent to 0.33 cm / 0.01 yuan (unit of money)

gē - to cut / to cut apart / to divide / partition / slice / mow / separate / sever / give up / abandon / part with / cede

*Note: a Chinese variant of the first character is 份

冷凍

August 9, 2013

Japanese Romaji: reitou

Japanese Meaning: freezing / cold storage / refrigeration

Parts:

rei(sa, tsume, hi) - chill / cold / cool

tou(i, koo, kogo, shi) - frozen / congeal / refrigerate

Chinese Pinyin: lěngdòng

Chinese Meaning: to freeze / deep-freeze / refrigerate

Parts:

lěng - cold / cool / chilly / unfrequented / deserted / desolate / lonely / rare / unusual / strange / sudden / unexpected / sneaky

dòng - to freeze / to feel very cold / cold / icy / congeal / aspic / jelly

班長

August 10, 2013

Japanese Romaji: hanchou

Japanese Meaning: squad leader / honcho / team leader / group leader

Parts:

han - group / party / team / corps / group / squad / unit / (military) section

chou(osa, naga, tsukasa) - long / leader / chief / head (of an organization) / elder / merit / strong point / superiority / the greatest of all / the most excellent / major (music) / (archaism) office / official

*Note 1: 長閑 (tranquil / calm / quiet / peaceful) is read as “nodoka”.

Chinese Pinyin: bānzhǎng

Chinese Meaning: squad leader / team leader / class monitor

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 級長 (kyuuchou) for “class monitor”

Parts:

bān - team / group / class / (school) grade / (military) squad / job / work shift / work / duty / ranking / withdraw troops / manoeuvre / counter for groups / counter for scheduled runs or flights (of buses, trains, planes, etc.)

zhǎng(cháng) - long / length / forever / always / constantly / excel in / be good at / forte / strong point / leader / chief / head (of an organization) / elder / master / older / senior / a superior / to grow / to develop / to increase / to enhance

*Note 2: the English word “honcho” is derived from the Japanese pronunciation of this word.

*Note 3: 2 variants of the second character are 厶 and 𠂔

邪魔

August 11, 2013

Japanese Romaji: jama

Japanese Meaning: hindrance / obstacle / interference / intrusion

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 障礙 (zhàng'ài)

Parts:

ja(yokoshima) - wicked / evil / wrong / injustice

ma - demon / devil / evil spirit / witch / evil influence / someone who (habitually) performs some (negative) act

*Note 1: in Japanese, the phrase “お邪魔します” (ojama shimasu) is a polite phrase used when entering other people’s homes and can mean “Excuse me for disturbing”. It literally means “I am going to get in your way”. When leaving, “お邪魔しました” (ojama shimashita) can be said to mean “Excuse me for having disturbed you”.

*Note 2: in Japanese, 風邪 (a cold) is read as “kaze”

Chinese Pinyin: xiémó

Chinese Meaning: evil spirit

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 悪魔 (akuma)

Parts:

xié - demonic / nefarious / evil / wicked / heretical / iniquitous / wrong / depraved / vicious / perverse / heterodox / strange / queer / unnatural / disaster / misfortune (caused by evil spirits) / unhealthy influences that cause disease

mó - demon / devil / fiend / evil spirit / evil influence / evil power / evil ability / familiar spirit / magic power / magic / mystic / conjuring

*Note 3: a variant of the first character is 衰

盆栽

August 17, 2013

Japanese Romaji: bonsai

Japanese Meaning: bonsai

Parts:

bon - basin / tray / lantern festival / O-Bon / Bon Festival / Lantern Festival / Festival of the Dead / family / household / residence / home

sai(zai) - plantation / planting

Chinese Pinyin: pénzāi

Chinese Meaning: penzai (Chinese bonsai) / potted plant / growing plants in pots

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 鉢植え (hachiue) for “potted plant”

Parts:

pén - basin / tub / pot / bowl / plate / flower pot / basin-shaped things / unit of volume equal to 12 斗 and 8 升, approx. 128 liters / counter for things held in a basin, tub, pot, etc.

zāi - to grow / cultivate / to plant / to care for plants / young plant / seedling / sapling / to insert / to stick in / to force on somebody / to force something on / to fall head first / tumble / fall / be frustrated

*Note 1: in Japanese and Chinese, this term along with 盆景 (bonkei / pénjǐng), 栽景 (saikai), and 盆石 (bonseki), refer to various versions of “scenery in a tray” used in China and Japan. The original version is the Chinese penzai.

*Note 2: お盆 (Obon) is an annual summer festival in Japan for honoring the deceased. Its dates vary between regions but are usually around the 15th of July or August where many people take time off work.

彗星

August 18, 2013

Japanese Romaji: suisei

Japanese Meaning: comet

Parts:

sui - comet

sei(hoshi, boshi) - star / any light-emitting (or reflecting) heavenly body (except for the sun and the moon) / dot / mark / spot / suspect (police slang)

Chinese Pinyin: huìxīng

Chinese Meaning: comet

Parts:

huì - comet / broomstick

xīng - star / planet / satellite / any point of light in the sky / any heavenly body that shines / spark /

sparks / very tiny / small amount / droplets / small particles of anything / star (famous person) / by night / nocturnal / an ancient percussion instrument

*Note 1 : the days of the week in Chinese are (from Monday to Sunday): 星期一、星期二、星期三、星期四、星期五、星期六、星期日. The pattern of kanji in a week is the numbers one to six, then “day”. The days of the week in Japanese are (from Monday to Sunday): 月曜日、火曜日、水曜日、木曜日、金曜日、土曜日、日曜日. The pattern of kanji in a week is “moon”, “fire”, “water”, “wood”, “gold”, “earth”, “day”.

*Note 2: A variant of the first character is 彗. Three variants of the second character are 彗彗彗

*Note 3: 彗星のように現れる (suisei no you ni arawareru) is Japanese for “to become famous overnight”

韓国/國

August 19, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kankoku

Japanese Meaning: South Korea (Republic of Korea)

Parts:

kan(kara) - Korea / (archaism) China (sometimes also used in reference to Korea or other foreign countries)

koku(kuni, goku) - country / nation / (the) state / region / home (i.e. hometown, home country)

Chinese Pinyin: hánguó

Chinese Meaning: South Korea (Republic of Korea)

Parts:

hán - Korea (especially South Korea) / Korea from the fall of the Joseon dynasty in 1897 / Han, one of the Seven Hero States of the Warring States / fence

guó - country / nation / national / (the) state / nation-state / kingdom / governmental / Chinese

*Note 1: North Korea is known as 北朝鮮 (kitachousen) in Japanese and 北朝鮮 (Běi Cháoxiǎn) or 朝鮮 (Cháoxiǎn) in Chinese

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 3: 4 other variants of the second character are 圀國圀圀

穀物/穀

August 20, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kokumotsu

Japanese Meaning: grain / cereal / corn

Parts:

koku(goku) - cereals / grain

motsu(mono, mon, butsu) - thing / object / matter / the natural thing / a frequently done thing / used to express emotional involvement / used in giving a reason / stolen goods / loot / spoils / (slang) stock / (slang) products

Chinese Pinyin: gǔwù

Chinese Meaning: grain / cereal

Parts:

gǔ - cereal / grain / corn / lucky / kind / good / official's salary

wù - thing / object / matter / substance / creature / being / content / stuff / the physical world / nature / other people / abbreviation for physics (物理 wùlǐ)

*Note: another variant of the first character is 藪

凝視

August 21, 2013

Japanese Romaji: gyoushi

Japanese Meaning: stare / gaze / fixation

Parts:

gyou(ko, kogo, shiko) - stiff / be absorbed in / congeal / freeze

shi(mi) - see / visual / vision / look at / regards as / inspection

Chinese Pinyin: níngshì

Chinese Meaning: to gaze fixedly at / to fix one's eyes on / to stare

Parts:

níng - to concentrate attention / to stare / cohere / to congeal / coagulate / to settle / freeze / to form / take shape

shì - to look at / to inspect / observe / see / to watch / to show / to receive(present, etc.) / to regard / consider / take it for / look upon as / take as a model / imitate

*Note: 4 variants of the second character are 視眈眈眈眈

樂譜/樂

August 22, 2013

Japanese Romaji: gakufu

Japanese Meaning: a musical score / sheet music / written music / music manuscript

Parts:

gaku(tano, raku) - enjoyable / comfort / ease / music

fu(pu) - (sheet) music / musical score / (musical) note / staff / table / genealogy

Chinese Pinyin: yuèpǔ

Chinese Meaning: a musical score / sheet music

Parts:

yuè(lè) - music / enjoyable / pleasant / agreeable / pleasing / comfortable / comfort / happy / happiness / glad / joy / joyful / joyous / laugh / cheerful / elated / contented / delighted / pleased / to love / be fond of / to delight in

pǔ - chart / list / table / register / a record / manual / guidebook / guide / musical score / to set to music / compose (a song) / general idea / something to count on / spectrum (physics)

逃亡

August 23, 2013

Japanese Romaji: toubou

Japanese Meaning: escape / flight / running away / elopement / fleeing

Parts:

tou(ni, noga) - escape / evade / flee / shirk / set free

bou(na, naki, horo, mou) - deceased / dying / perish / destroy / fall / collapse / nonexistent / run away / the late

Chinese Pinyin: táowáng

Chinese Meaning: to flee / flight (from danger) / fugitive

Parts:

táo - to escape / to run away / to flee / abscond / dodge / evade / avoid / shirk

wáng - to die / death / deceased / destroyed / perish / to lose / lost / to be gone / to flee / escape / the late (applicable only to deceased blood relatives or friends)

*Note: a variant of the first character is 逃 A variant of the second character is 亡

狙撃/撃

August 24, 2013

Japanese Romaji: sogeki

Japanese Meaning: sniping / sharpshooting / shooting

Parts:

so(nera) - aim at / sight / to stalk / to shadow

geki(u) - to attack / to beat / to conquer / to defeat

Chinese Pinyin: jūjī

Chinese Meaning: to snipe (shoot from hiding) / ambush / attack

Parts:

jū - to spy / to lie in ambush / watch for / macaque / an ape / monkey

jī(jí) - to hit / to strike / to beat / to break / to attack / to fight / bump into

光輝

August 25, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kouki

Japanese Meaning: brightness / brilliant / shining / glorious / splendor / splendour

Parts:

kou(hikari, hika) - light / ray

ki(kagaya) - gleam / shine / sparkle / twinkle / radiance

Chinese Pinyin: guānghuī

Chinese Meaning: radiance / brightness / brilliance / brilliant / magnificent / shine / honor / glory

Parts:

guāng - light / brilliant / brightness / shine / bright / light rays / beam / glossy / smooth / glory / glorious / honor / exhaust / use up / alone / only / merely / bare / naked

huī - to shine upon / reflect / cast (reflections) / brightness / luster / lustre / brilliance / radiance / splendor / splendour

*Note: 2 variants of the first character are 光 and 英 A variant of the second character is 暉

胃病

August 26, 2013

Japanese Romaji: ibyou

Japanese Meaning: stomach trouble

Parts:

i - stomach / craw / crop / paunch

byou(yamai, ya, pei) - ill / sick / illness / disease / suffer / difficult / make one suffer / bad habit

Chinese Pinyin: wèibìng

Chinese Meaning: stomach trouble / stomach illness / stomach ache

Parts:

wèi - stomach / gastric / gizzard of fowl

bìng - illness / disease / sickness / ailment / to fall ill / blemish / fault / defect / injure / harm / worry / hate / insult

野蛮/蠻

August 27, 2013

Japanese Romaji: yaban

Japanese Meaning: savage / uncivilized / uncivilised / barbarian

Parts:

ya(no) - plains / field / wild / area / rustic / civilian life / hidden (structural) member / lacking a political post

ban - barbarian

Chinese Pinyin: yěmán

Chinese Meaning: barbarous / uncivilized / uncivilised / savage / cruel

Parts:

yě - fields / plains / open country / countryside / open space / the open / suburb / wilderness / wild / feral / uncultured / undomesticated / coarse / untamed / unrestrained / barbarous / rude / rough / violent / boorish / boundary / limit / the people (as opposed to the government)

mán - barbarian / barbarous / savage / bullying / very / quite / fairly / pretty / rough / reckless / rude / unreasonable / reckless

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: two variants of the first character are 埜 and 埤

七曜

August 28, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shichiyō

Japanese Meaning: the seven luminaries (sun, moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn) / the seven days of the week

Parts:

shichi(nana, nano, nanu) - seven / hepta-
yō - weekday

*Note 1: 七夕 is read as “tanabata”

Chinese Pinyin: qīyào

Chinese Meaning: the seven luminaries (sun, moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn) / the seven planets of pre-modern astronomy

Parts:

qī - seven

yào - bright / glorious / as sun / daylight / sunlight / one of the seven planets of pre-modern astronomy (sun, moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn)

*Note 2: the days of the week in Japanese are (from Sunday to Saturday): 日曜日、月曜日、火曜日、水曜日、木曜日、金曜日、土曜日. Each day is named after a “planet” and/or Chinese element (日 = sun, 月 = moon, 火星 = Mars/fire, 水星 = Mercury/water, 木星 = Jupiter/wood, 金星 = Venus/metal or gold, 土星 = Saturn/earth). Japan adopted this from pre-modern China while China switched to a different pattern using 星期

頑固

August 29, 2013

Japanese Romaji: ganko

Japanese Meaning: stubbornness / obstinacy

Parts:

gan(kataku) - firmly / foolish / stubborn

ko(kata, go) - clot / curdle / harden / to set

Chinese Pinyin: wángù

Chinese Meaning: stubborn / obstinate

Parts:

wán - obstinate / stubborn / naughty / mischievous / to play / recalcitrant / firm / adamant / resolute / stupid / dense / dull

gù - hard / strong / solid / solidify / to become solid / consolidate / strength / strengthen / firm / secure / steadfast / stubborn / obstinate / adamant / sure / assuredly / undoubtedly / of course / indeed / admittedly / originally / as a matter of course

餃子

August 30, 2013

Japanese Romaji: gyouza

Japanese Meaning: gyoza (crescent-shaped dumplings with a minced stuffing and steamed, boiled or fried) / jiaozi (Chinese dumplings) / dumpling / pot sticker

Parts:

gyou - gyoza

za(ko, go, ne, shi, ji, su, zu, mi) - child / young (animal) / young woman / young geisha / offshoot / interest / new shares / offspring / fruit / nut / seed / an object which has a subservient or derivative role relative to another object / (suffix) (after a noun or -masu stem) -er (often of young women) / smaller or younger version of a bigger object / (in broth) pieces of meat, vegetables, etc. / content / substance / viscount / (honorific) master (founder of a school of thought, esp. Confucius) / philosophy (branch of Chinese literature) / non-Confucian Hundred Schools of Thought writings / first sign of the Chinese zodiac / sign of the rat (zodiac)

*Note 1: this is the only Japanese kanji pair which contains both of these characters and where the second character has the “za” reading. Also, in Japanese, “glass” can be written as ガラス or 硝子 (read as “garasu”).

Chinese Pinyin: jiǎozi

Chinese Meaning: jiaozi (crescent-shaped dumplings with a minced stuffing and steamed, boiled or fried) / gyoza (Japanese dumplings) / dumpling / pot sticker

Parts:

jiǎo - stuffed dumplings / dumplings with meat filling

zi(zǐ) - son / daughter / child / young (animal) / offspring / newborn / tender / small / sub- / subsidiary / subordinate / being / person / learned or virtuous man / master / fruit / nut / seed / egg / small thing / viscount / master / a designation used in speaking of or to a man in former times / (noun suffix) / a suffix for small objects / first sign of the Chinese zodiac / sign of the rat (zodiac)

*Note 2: a variant of this word in Chinese is 餃餌 (jiǎo'ěr)

金牌

August 31, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kinpai

Japanese Meaning: gold medal

Parts:

kin(kana, kane, gane, kon, gon) - gold / golden (color) / money / metal / metaphor for (most) valuable / gold (medal, cup, etc.) / Friday / karat / carat / (colloquialism) testicles

pai(hai) - medal / label / signboard / mahjong tiles

Chinese Pinyin: jīnpái

Chinese Meaning: gold medal

Parts:

jīn - gold / golden / money / wealth / metal / generic term for lustrous and ductile metals / highly respected / weapons / arms / precious / excellent / fine / durable

pái - medal / plate / tablet / signboard / placard / bulletin board / card / tag / label / trademark / brand / playing card / mahjong tile / game pieces

就寝/寝

September 1, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shuushin

Japanese Meaning: going to bed / retiring

Parts:

shuu(tsu, ju) - concerning / depart / per / settle / study / take position

shin(ne, i) - sleep / lie down / rest / bed / remain unsold

Chinese Pinyin: jiùqǐn

Chinese Meaning: to go to bed (literary) / to go to sleep

Parts:

jiù - simply / only / just (emphasis) / merely / exactly / precisely / definitely / namely / with regard to / concerning / as far as / at once / right away / forthwith / as early as / already / as soon as / then / in that case / as many as / as much as / even if / even though / to come / go to / to approach / to move towards / to near / arrive / to undertake / undergo / to engage in / enter upon / to suffer / subjected to / receive / follow / assume / accommodate / comply with / yield to / make use of / to take advantage of / avail oneself of / to accomplish / get ready / succeed / has been / have been / to go with (of foods)

qǐn - to lie down / sleep / rest / bedroom / bed chamber / coffin chamber / stop / end

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: another variant of the second character is 寝

肝臟/臟

September 2, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kanzou

Japanese Meaning: liver

Parts:

kan(kimo, gimo) - liver / innards / courage / spirit / nerve / pluck / (have) guts / chutzpah

zou - bowels / entrails / viscera

Chinese Pinyin: gānzàng

Chinese Meaning: liver

Parts:

gān - liver / hepar

zàng - internal organs / viscera (specifically heart, liver, spleen, lung, and kidney)

*Note: in traditional Chinese medicine, the internal organs of the human body can be classified into the five viscera (heart, liver, spleen, lung, and kidney) and six bowels (stomach, small intestine, large intestine, gall bladder, bladder, and "Triple Focus" (三焦)). (Japanese: 五臟六腑 gozouroppu; Chinese: 五臟六腑 wǔzàngliùfǔ).

The five viscera are also related to the five Chinese elements of Fire, Water, Wood, Metal, and Earth.

Sources:

<http://www.acuhealing.com/tcmtheory/fiveelemnt.htm>

<http://www.acupuncture-and-chinese-medicine.com/five-viscera.html>

橙色

September 3, 2013

Japanese Romaji: daidai'iro

Japanese Meaning: orange-colored / orange-coloured

Parts:

daidai(tou) - bitter orange (Citrus aurantium)

iro(shiki, shoku) - color / colour / tint / tinge / hue / shade / facial expression / complexion / appearance / look / sensuality / love / lust / love affair / lover / kind / sort / type / variety / (Buddhism) rupa (form) / visible objects (i.e. color and form) / counter for colors

Chinese Pinyin: chéngsè

Chinese Meaning: orange (color)

Parts:

chéng - orange (color) / orange (fruit) / orange tree

sè(shǎi) - color / colour / tint / tinge / hue / shade / facial expression / complexion / appearance / look / beauty / desire for beauty / sensuality / lust / lewdness / sex / carnal pleasure / kind / sort / type / variety / form / body / dice / worldly things

海陸/海

September 4, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kairiku

Japanese Meaning: land and sea / army and navy

Parts:

kai(umi) - ocean / sea / beach / maritime

riku(oka, roku) - land / shore / six (used in legal documents) / good / satisfactory / worthy / decent

*Note: 海苔 (edible seaweed) is read as “nori”; 海胆 (sea urchin) is read as “uni”; 海老 (prawn, shrimp, or lobster”, etc.) is read as “ebi”; 海豹 (seal [animal]) is read as “azarashi”; 海豚 (dolphin) is read as “iruka”; 海獺/海獺 (sea otter) is read as “rakko”; 常陸 is read as “hitachi”

Chinese Pinyin: hǎilù

Chinese Meaning: land and sea / ocean and continent / army and navy

Parts:

hǎi - ocean / sea / maritime / a huge gathering (of people, etc.) / great number of people or things coming together / area / field / great / unlimited

lù(liù) - shore / land / continent / continental / by way / by land / land transportation / army / six (used in legal documents)

閃電

September 5, 2013

Japanese Romaji: senden

Japanese Meaning: flash of lightning

Parts:

sen(hirame) - brandish / flash

den - lightning / electricity

Chinese Pinyin: shǎndiàn

Chinese Meaning: lightning / flashing lightning

Parts:

shǎn - a flash / sparkle / appear suddenly / lightning / to flash (across one's mind) / to dodge / avoid / evade / to duck out of the way / get out of the way / shaken (by a fall) / to sprain / to pull a muscle / to strain / to twist / to leave behind

diàn - electricity / electric / electrical / electro / lightning / short for cable or telegram

絵画/繪畫

September 6, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kaiga

Japanese Meaning: a picture / a painting / a drawing

Parts:

kai(e) - drawing / painting / picture / sketch

ga(ega, e, kaku) - picture / drawing / painting / sketch / draw / brush-stroke / counter for strokes (of a kanji, etc.)

Chinese Pinyin: huìhuà

Chinese Meaning: a drawing / a painting / a picture

Parts:

huì - to draw / to paint / sketch / describe / depict

huà - draw / paint / sketch / write / painting / picture / drawing / delineate / delimit / to mark / plan / design / brush-stroke / stroke of a Chinese character / counter for paintings / something decorated with paintings or pictures

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: another variant of the second character is 畫 The Chinese version of the second character is a variant of 劃

括弧

September 7, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kakko

Japanese Meaning: parentheses / brackets

Parts:

katsu(kuku, kubi) - fasten / tie up / constrict / arrest

ko - arc / arch / bow

Chinese Pinyin: kuòhú

Chinese Meaning: parenthesis

Parts:

kuò(guā) - to enclose / to include / to embrace / sum up / seek / search for / ransack / come / arrive / to bound / tie / restrain

hú - arc / radian / segment of a curve / crescent / wooden bow

磁極

September 8, 2013

Japanese Romaji: jikyoku

Japanese Meaning: NS magnetic pole

Parts:

ji - magnet / porcelain

kyoku(ki, gi, kiwa, goku) - pole (geographical, physics) / climax / extreme / extremely / extremity / culmination / conclusion / end / highly / height / zenith / nadir / highest rank / electric poles / quite / very / most / settlement / quindecillion (US) / octillion (Europe) / 10^{48}

Chinese Pinyin: cíjí

Chinese Meaning: magnetic pole

Parts:

cí - magnetic / magnetism / porcelain

jí - pole (geographical, physics) / extremely / extreme / exceedingly / utmost / furthest / farthest / final / highest / topmost / exhaust / reach at / arrive at / 10^{48}

*Note 1: in English, numbers larger than 1,000,000 (million) are named differently between some English-speaking countries (there are two systems: “short scale” and “long scale”). The short scale is based on factors of 1000 while the long scale is based on factors of 1,000,000. For example, the second kanji can refer to a number with 48 zeros. This number is called one “quindecillion” under the short scale and one “octillion” on the long scale. However, a “quindecillion” in the long scale has 90 zeros while an “octillion” in the short scale has 27 zeros. Further details at:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Names_of_large_numbers

Japan and China use the myriad system, based on factors of 10,000.

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 磁

脂肪

September 9, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shibou

Japanese Meaning: fat / blubber / grease

Parts:

shi(abura, yani) - fat / grease / lard / tallow / gum / tar / resin / rosin / nicotine / sleep (in one's eyes, i.e. eye mucus)

bou - fat / obese

Chinese Pinyin: zhīfáng

Chinese Meaning: body fat / fat (in the body, in a plant, or in food)

Parts:

zhī - fat (of animals) / grease / lard / tallow / gum or sap of trees / resin / anoint / grease / lubricate / rouge (cosmetics)

fáng - animal fat

*Note: the second character only ever appears in a pair as this word in Japanese and Chinese

纖維/纖

September 10, 2013

Japanese Romaji: sen'i

Japanese Meaning: fibre / fiber / textile

Parts:

sen(chin) - fine / slender / thin kimono / one ten-millionth / (abbreviation) daikon julienne / julienned daikon

i - fiber / rope / tie

Chinese Pinyin: xiānwéi

Chinese Meaning: fibre / fiber

Parts:

xiān - fine / delicate / minute / graceful / tiny / slender / one ten-millionth

wéi - to preserve / to maintain / safeguard / to hold together / to unite / hold fast / to tie / to secure / long and slender (fibers) / pattern / rule / dimension / vitamin / an initial particle (only, but, etc.)

*Note: another variant of the first character is 織

硬度

September 11, 2013

Japanese Romaji: koudo

Japanese Meaning: hardness / solidity

Parts:

kou(kata) - hard / stiff / hardness

do(tabi, taku, to) - degree (angle, temperature, scale, etc.) / occurrence / times / strength (of alcohol) / counter for occurrences and times

Chinese Pinyin: yìngdù

Chinese Meaning: hardness

Parts:

yìng - hard / stiff / tough / solid / strong (attitude, willpower, etc.) / firm / resolutely / doggedly / obstinate / inflexible / forcibly / with effort / stubbornly / good (quality) / able (person) / capable

dù(duó) - degree (angle, intensity, temperature, etc.) / occurrence / times / limit / extent / system / manner / bearing / to estimate / measure / limit / to pass / to spend time / consider / kilowatt-hour / counter for occurrences and events

裝飾/装

September 12, 2013

Japanese Romaji: soushoku

Japanese Meaning: ornament / decorate

Parts:

sou(yosoo, shou) - clothing / attire / dress / disguise / pretend / profess / binding (of a book)

shoku(kaza) - decorate / adorn / embellish / ornament

Chinese Pinyin: zhuāngshì

Chinese Meaning: to decorate / decoration / decorative / ornamental

Parts:

zhuāng - clothing / dress / attire / outfit / clothes and personal effects / costume (of an actor in a play) / disguise / adornment / to adorn / decorate / to dress / make up / ornamental dressing / to play a role / to pretend / to feign / to install (machines, equipment, etc.) / to fix / to wrap (something in a bag) / to load / to pack / fill in / fill up / store up / keep

shì - decoration / ornament / to decorate / to adorn / polish (writing) / ornamentation / clothing and dresses / to hide / to conceal (a fault) / to excuse (to hide a fault) / excuse oneself on a pretext, etc. / fake / to play a role (in opera) / act the part of / to impersonate / to deceive / whitewash / cover up

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 飭

倍增/増

September 13, 2013

Japanese Romaji: baizou

Japanese Meaning: doubling

Parts:

bai - double / twice / two times / -fold / times

zou(fu, ma) - add / augment / gain / increase / promote

*Note 1: 倍增し is read as “baimashi”

Chinese Pinyin: bèizēng

Chinese Meaning: to double / to redouble / to increase many times over / to multiply by a factor / multiplication

Parts:

bèi - (two, three, etc.)-fold / times (multiplier) / double / to increase or multiply / multiple times / exceptionally / particularly

zēng - to increase / to expand / to add to / gain / augment / enlarge

*Note 2: the Japanese term is limited to multiplying by 2

味噌

September 14, 2013

Japanese Romaji: miso

Japanese Meaning: miso (traditional Japanese seasoning) / fermenting soybean paste / key (main) point

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 要點 (yàodiǎn) for the meaning of “main point”

Parts:

mī(aji, bi) - flavor / flavour / taste / charm / style / experience / smart / clever / witty / strange / (suffix)

-ness / any degree of being / (sense of) taste / counter for food, drink, medicine, etc.

so - boisterous

Chinese Pinyin: wèicēng

Chinese Meaning: miso (traditional Japanese seasoning)

Parts:

wèi - flavor / flavour / taste / smell / odor / odour / delicacy / dainty

cēng(chēng) - scold / shout at / rebuke / whoosh! / whiz / swish / sound of bells, etc. / boom (of bells or drums)

五冊

September 15, 2013

Japanese Romaji: gosatsu

Japanese Meaning: five (books, copies, volumes, etc.)

Parts:

go(itsu) - five / fifth

satsu(saku, zaku) - counter for books / tome / a volume

Chinese Pinyin: wǔcè

Chinese Meaning: five (books, copies, volumes, etc.)

Parts:

wǔ - five

cè - counter for books / book / booklet / a volume / a copy / album / imperial edict to confer nobility titles

*Note 1: in both Japanese and Chinese, counting things always require the use of a number and a “counter” word suffix. (The technical terms in Chinese are “classifier” or “measure word”). For example, to say “five” of anything, you need to use the character for “five” along with an appropriate second character which varies depending on the thing being counted.

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 𠂇

中央

September 16, 2013

Japanese Romaji: chuuou

Japanese Meaning: centre / center / central / middle

Parts:

chuu(ata, uchi, djuu, juu, naka) - inside / in / among / amongst / between / within / center / centre / middle / second volume of a three volume set / during / while (doing something) / being in the process of doing / in the course of / we (referring to one's in-group, i.e. company, etc.) / our / my spouse / (archaism) imperial palace grounds / (archaism) emperor / (Kansai dialect) I (primarily used by women and children), me / through / throughout / in the course of / all over or throughout (e.g. a place) / medium / average / mean / middle / moderation / (abbreviation) middle school / (abbreviation) China / out of (e.g. 3 out of 4) / under (construction, etc.)

ou - center / centre / middle

Chinese Pinyin: zhōngyāng

Chinese Meaning: central / middle / center / centre / central authorities (of a state)

Parts:

zhōng(zhòng) - within / among / in / inside / between / middle (of time or place) / center / centre / central / halfway / medium-grade / medium / average / mediocre / while (doing something) / during / in the midst of / in the process of / China / Chinese / to hit (target) / attain / to be hit by / to suffer / be touched by (weather, poison, etc.) / be affected by / fall into / to win (prize, lottery, etc.) / to accomplish / pass examination / fit taste / liking / be agreeable to / fit exactly

yāng - center / centre / central / middle / finish / conclude / conclusion / run out / request / entreat / beg

虐待

September 17, 2013

Japanese Romaji: gyakutai

Japanese Meaning: abuse / ill-treatment / maltreatment / mistreatment / cruelty

Parts:

gyaku(iji, shiita) - oppress / tyrannize

tai(ma, dai) - wait / depend on

Chinese Pinyin: nüèdài

Chinese Meaning: to abuse / to mistreat / to maltreat / mistreatment / maltreatment

Parts:

nüè - oppressive / tyrannical / maltreat / abuse / cruel / brutal / savage / harsh

dài(dāi) - to wait / await / to treat / entertain / receive / to deal with / to need / going to (do something)
/ about to / intending to / stay / delay

肖像

September 18, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shouzou

Japanese Meaning: portrait

Parts:

shou(ayaka) - resemblance

zou - figure / statue / idol / image / picture / portrait

Chinese Pinyin: xiàoxiàng

Chinese Meaning: portrait

Parts:

xiào - similar / resembling / to resemble / look like / to be like

xiàng - to resemble / to be like / take after / to appear / seem / look like / to look as if / such as /
appearance / image / portrait / picture / a figure / statue / image under a mapping (math)

秋霜

September 19, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shuusou

Japanese Meaning: autumn frost / fall frost / (figurative) white hair as sign of old age

Parts:

shuu(aki) - autumn / fall (season)

sou(shimo, jimo) - frost

Chinese Pinyin: qiūshuāng

Chinese Meaning: autumn frost / fall frost / (figurative) white hair as sign of old age

Parts:

qiū - autumn / fall (season) / time / period / year / season / ripening of grains / harvest time

shuāng - frost / hoarfrost / crystallized / candied / white and powdery / white powder or cream spread over a surface / frosting / (skin) cream / coolness / indifference / grave / virtuous / pure and clean

*Note: 3 variants of the first character are 穉穉𪔐 In Chinese, the first character is also the simplified version of 鞦 (qiū, a swing).

原則

September 20, 2013

Japanese Romaji: gensoku

Japanese Meaning: principle / general rule

Parts:

gen(hara, bara, wara) - original / primitive / primary / fundamental / raw / field / plain / prairie / meadow / tundra / moor / wilderness / suffixed to words indicating a class of people to create a plural (esp. in impolite contexts)

soku(notto) - rule / follow / based on / model after / counter for rules

Chinese Pinyin: yuánzé

Chinese Meaning: principle / doctrine

Parts:

yuán - original / primary / raw / former / level / cause / source / origin / beginning / steppe / vast plain / field / meadow / tundra / prairie / wilderness / graveyard / excuse / pardon

zé - standard / norm / rule / law / regulation / criterion / grades / to imitate / to follow / then / principle / but / however / conjunction used to express contrast with a previous sentence or clause / a particle indicating consequence (usually used after a supposition) or a reason / a numerary particle used before news reports, etc. / counter for written items (such as an official statement)

*Note: a variant of the first character is 原

大阪

September 21, 2013

Japanese Romaji: oosaka

Japanese Meaning: Osaka, a city and prefecture in Japan

Parts:

oo(ta, tai, dai) - big / large / huge / great / loud (volume) / senior / the large part of / (suffix)

approximate size / no larger than / (abbreviation) -university

saka(han) - slope / hill / heights

*Note 1: In Japanese, 大人 (adult) is read as “otona”; 大蛇 (big snake) has the reading of “oroichi”; 大和 (an old name for Japan) is read as “Yamato”

Chinese Pinyin: Dàbǎn

Chinese Meaning: Osaka, a city and prefecture in Japan

Parts:

dà(dài) - big / large / huge / major / vast / wide / deep / great / high / very / highly / extremely / really / much / oldest / eldest / senior / adult / full-grown / your (politely) / before / after (referring to dates only) / make large / make great

bǎn - a slope / hillside / hilly slope / inconvenient places

*Note 2: 2 variants of the second character are 坂 and 坂. The first variant is also treated as a separate common character in Japanese meaning “hill” or “slope” and was formerly used in Osaka’s name. Two explanations for the change are that the two halves could be interpreted inauspiciously as either 土に返る or 土反. The first connotes “returning to the soil” (i.e. burying) while the second can mean “samurai rebellion”.

安寧

September 28, 2013

Japanese Romaji: an'nei

Japanese Meaning: public peace / peacefulness / tranquility

Parts:

an(yasu) - cheap / low / contented / peaceful / quiet / relax / rested / (to be) rash / thoughtless /
careless / indiscreet / frivolous

nei(mushi) - preferably / rather

Chinese Pinyin: ānníng

Chinese Meaning: peace / repose / tranquility / peaceful / tranquil / calm / composed / free from worry

Parts:

ān - content / calm / still / quiet / tranquil / peaceful / safe / secure / stable / in good health / to find a
place for / in install / to fix / to fit / to put / to place / to arrange / to bring (a charge against somebody) /
to pacify / stabilize / stabilise / to console / security / safety / peace / amper / how / why

níng(nìng) - peaceful / repose / serenity / peace / serene / tranquil / would rather (than) / to prefer /
better be (than) / how could it be / how could there be

*Note 1: the Japanese version more specifically refers to peace in the context of "peaceful society"
whereas the Chinese version is more general.

*Note 2: 4 variants of the second character are 寧甯寧寧

先驅/驅

September 28, 2013

Japanese Romaji: senku

Japanese Meaning: forerunner / pioneer / precursor / herald / outrider / pilot car

Parts:

sen(saki, ma) - previous / prior / former / old / some time ago / preceding / point (e.g. of a pencil) / tip / end / nozzle / head (of a line) / front / ahead / the other side / before / precedence / future / hereafter / destination / the other party / first move / opening move / sequel

ku(ka, ga, kake) - to advance / drive / gallop / run / impel / inspire

Chinese Pinyin: xiānqū

Chinese Meaning: pioneer / a forerunner / a vanguard

Parts:

xiān - early / prior / former / previous / preceding / antecedent / before / earlier / early on / in advance / first / lead / initiative / foremost / leading / pioneering / initiating / temporarily / for the time being / for now / the late... / the deceased... / one's forebears / elder generation / ancestor / forefather

qū - go before others / to urge on / to drive away / to expel / to run quickly / spur a horse on / command

*Note: 2 more variants of the second character are 駟 and 毆

避暑

September 29, 2013

Japanese Romaji: hisho

Japanese Meaning: summering / going to a summer resort / to run away from summer heat

Parts:

hi(sa, yo, pi) - avert / avoid / evade / shirk / shun / ward off

sho(atsu) - hot / warm (weather) / sultry / summer heat / heat / midsummer

Chinese Pinyin: bìshǔ

Chinese Meaning: to be away for the summer holidays / to spend a holiday at a summer resort / to run away from summer heat / to take a summer vacation / to prevent sunstroke

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 日射病を防ぐ (nisshabyou o fusegu) for "preventing sunstroke"

Parts:

bì - to avoid / to shun / evade / avert / to flee / to escape / prevent / to keep away from / repel / to leave / to hide from / turn aside

shǔ - heat / hot / hot weather / summer heat / midsummer

*Note: a variant of the second character is 暑

脚本/腳

September 29, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kyakuhon

Japanese Meaning: script / screenplay / scenario

Parts:

kyaku(ashi, katsu, kya, gya) - leg / foot / gait / pace / skids / undercarriage / bottom structural component (i.e. radical) of a kanji / counter for chairs or seats
hon(bon, pon, moto) - root / origin / source / base / basis / foundation / cause / ingredient / material / original cost (or capital, principal, etc.) / (plant) root / (tree) trunk / first section of a waka / handle (chopsticks, brush, etc.) / a grip / book / volume / script / scenario / main / the head of / this / our / the present / real / current / counter for long cylindrical things (glasses of drinks, pairs of jeans, etc.) / counter for films, TV shows, etc. / counter for goals, home runs, etc. / counter for blades of grass, tree trunks, etc., and for falcons (in falconry)

Chinese Pinyin: jiǎoběn

Chinese Meaning: script

Parts:

jiǎo(jué) - foot / feet / leg (of an animal or object) / base (of an object) / foundation / kick / football player / footnote / rhyme / transporting manually / counter for kicks / role
běn - root / origin / source / this / basis / foundation / based on / according to / on the authority of / originally / at first / original / inherent / intrinsic / current / present / this / my / our / copy / book / edition / script / capital / principal / cost / roots or stems of plants / counter for books, periodicals, files, etc.

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: another variant of the first character is 脚. The first character is also a variant of 角. Two variants of the second character are 本 and 畚.

手段

September 30, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shudan

Japanese Meaning: means (of doing something) / method / procedure / way / measure

Parts:

shu(ta, te, de, zu) - hand / arm / forepaw / foreleg / handle / worker / help / trouble / care / effort / means / way / trick / a move / a play / technique / workmanship / handwriting / a kind / a type / a sort / one's hands / one's possession / ability to cope / hand (of cards) / direction

dan(tan) - steps / stairs / (row of) stitches / columns (of print) / line (of text) / grade / rank / rating / ranking / level / counter for breaks in written language (or speech, etc.) / variable measure of fabric (28.8 cm in width) / for kimonos: at least 10 m in length / for haori: at least 7.27 m in length / for other clothes: at least 6.06 m in length / 300 tsubo (991.74 meters square, 0.24506 acres) / six ken (10.91 m)

*Note 1: the reading of 上手い (which has several meanings such as “skillful”, “fortunate”, “delicious”, etc.) is “umai”. (Not to be confused with 上手 (skillful), which is usually read as “jouzu”).

Chinese Pinyin: shǒuduàn

Chinese Meaning: means (of doing something) / method / strategy / trick

Parts:

shǒu - hand / (formal) to hold / to have in one's hand / convenient / handy / portable / handwritten / personally / skill / skilled person / proficiency / person engaged in certain types of work / person skilled in certain types of work / verb measure for skill or proficiency / noun measure used in firsthand, secondhand, etc. and also for smallest tradable unit (of stocks)

duàn - paragraph / section / piece / division / segment / phase / stage (of a process) / grade / rank (in the game of weiqi) / counter for stories, periods of time, lengths of thread, etc.

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 犇

昨夜

October 1, 2013

Japanese Romaji: sakuya / yuube

Japanese Meaning: last night

Parts:

saku - previous / yesterday / last (year)

ya(yo, yoru) - evening / night

*Note 1: in Japanese, 昨日 (yesterday) is read as “kinou”, 一昨日 (day before yesterday) can be read as “ototoi”, 一昨年 (year before the last) can be read as “ototoshi”, 一昨々日 (three days back) can be read as “sakiototoi”, 一昨々々 (three years back) can be read as “sakiototoshi”, 十六夜 (16th night of the month) is read as “izayoi”, and 昨夜 (last night) has the uncommon reading of “yuube”

Chinese Pinyin: zuóyè

Chinese Meaning: last night

Parts:

zuó - yesterday / in former times / in the past

yè - night / dark / darkness / in night / by night / night trip / night travelling

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 亘

童謡/謠

October 2, 2013

Japanese Romaji: douyou

Japanese Meaning: children's song / nursery rhyme

Parts:

dou(pa, warabe, warawa) - child / juvenile

you(uta, utai) - noh chanting / recitation

Chinese Pinyin: tóngyáo

Chinese Meaning: children's song / nursery rhyme

Parts:

tóng - boy / child / children / minor / virgin / servant boy / bare / bald / barren (hill, etc.)

yáo - sing / folk song / popular ballad / a rhyme / rumor / rumour / hearsay / allegation

*Note: the picture is of Humpty Dumpty meeting the elephant from the Japanese children's song ぞう
さん (Zousan - Mr. Elephant)

輩出

October 3, 2013

Japanese Romaji: haishutsu

Japanese Meaning: turning out (skilled individuals, etc.) in great numbers / produce such people one after another / appearing one after the other

Parts:

hai(tomogara, bara, yakara, bai, pai) - companions / comrade / fellow / clan / family / people / group / gang / bunch / party (of people) / set (of people) / suffixed to words indicating a class of people to create a plural (esp. in impolite contexts)

shutsu(i, da, de, sui) - come out / go out / coming out / going out / outflow / efflux / emerging / rising (of the sun or moon) / exit / leave / protrude / put out / attending (work) / appearing (on stage) / one's turn to go on / start / beginning / origins / background / person (or item) originating from ... / graduate of... / native of... / member of ... (lineage) / architectural member that projects outward / highest point of the stern of a ship / amount (comprising something) / amount of time or effort required to do something / being born into (a certain family) / being a native of (a particular place)

*Note 1: in Japanese, 出雲 is the name of a place called "Izumo".

Chinese Pinyin: bèichū

Chinese Meaning: to come forth in large numbers

Parts:

bèi - contemporaries / generation (in the family) / lifetime / people of a certain kind / the like / type / class

chū - come out / go out / exit / leave / send out / stand / produce / reproduce / to occur / to go beyond / to rise / to put forth / to happen / counter for dramas, plays, operas, etc.

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 輩 A Chinese variant of the second character is 齣 Another variant is 出

効率/效

October 4, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kouritsu

Japanese Meaning: efficiency / efficacy / performance / utility factor

Parts:

kou(ki) - benefit / efficacy / efficiency / merit / worth / use / avail / effect / result / success

ritsu(hiki, sotsu) - rate / ratio / proportion / percentage / coefficient / factor / low-rank soldier

Chinese Pinyin: xiàolǜ

Chinese Meaning: efficiency / productiveness

Parts:

xiào - effect / result / efficacy / effectiveness / devote / render service to / to toil / to serve in the army / to imitate

lǜ(shuài) - rate / ratio / proportion / limit / frequency / to lead / to command / to head / example / model / follow / obey / act in accordance with / rash / hasty / frank / straightforward / candid / generally / usually

*Note 1: the Chinese version of the first character is also the simplified Chinese version of 倣 (which has the variant 倣)

*Note 2: A variant of the second character is 率

恋慕/戀

October 5, 2013

Japanese Romaji: renbo

Japanese Meaning: love / attachment / tender emotions / falling in love with / give one's heart away / be attached to

Parts:

ren(koi, ko) - romance / in love / tender passion / darling / to miss / yearn for

bo(shita) - adore / love dearly / pining / yearn for

*Note 1: 恋慕う (to yearn for) is read as "koishitau"

Chinese Pinyin: liànmù

Chinese Meaning: to be enamored of / to have a tender feeling toward / to lose one's heart to / to pine for / to love at a distance or silently / to be sentimentally attached to (a person or place)

Parts:

liàn - to love / to be in love / to feel attached to / to long for / yearn for

mù - long for / desire / admire / envy / adore / yearn for / hanker after

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified form of the Chinese version.

添加

October 5, 2013

Japanese Romaji: tenka

Japanese Meaning: addition / annexing / (mathematics) adjunction / (electronics) doping

Parts:

ten(so, zo) - accompany / annexed / append / attach / garnish / marry / meet / satisfy / to suit / imitate

ka(kuwa) - add / addition / increase / include / join / Canada

Chinese Pinyin: tiānjiā

Chinese Meaning: to add / to increase / adjunction / accrescence

Parts:

tiān - to add to / append / to increase / to replenish (stock, etc.) / have a baby

jiā - add to / plus / increase / augment / append / (used after an adverb such as 不, 大, 稍 etc, and before a disyllabic verb, to indicate that the action of the verb is applied to something or somebody previously mentioned) / to apply (restrictions etc.) to (somebody) / to give (support, consideration etc.) to (something) / Canada

*Note: a variant of the first character is 添

削減

October 6, 2013

Japanese Romaji: sakugen

Japanese Meaning: to cut (down on) / reduction / curtailment / downsizing

Parts:

saku(kezu, so, hatsu) - to pare / to plane / whittle / sharpen / shave (leather) / scrape off / cross out /
reduce / curtail

gen(he, me) - decline / decrease / curtail / dwindle / reduce / reduction / get hungry

Chinese Pinyin: xuējiǎn / xuèjiǎn

Chinese Meaning: to cut down / to reduce / to lower

Parts:

xuē(xuè, xiāo) - to reduce / dwindle / diminish / lessen / to pare (away) / whittle / to trim / to peel with
a knife / to scrape off / to cut (down) / to cut (a ball at tennis, etc.) / chop / to remove / subdue /
plunder / exploit / remove

jiǎn - to lower / to decrease / to reduce / deduct / to subtract / minus / to cut / to diminish

墮落/墮

October 6, 2013

Japanese Romaji: daraku

Japanese Meaning: depravity / corruption / degradation

Parts:

da(o) - degenerate / descend into / lapse into

raku(o) - to fall / to drop / come down / to leave behind

Chinese Pinyin: duòluò

Chinese Meaning: to degrade / to (morally) degenerate / to become depraved / corrupt / a fall from grace / a fall into sin or depravity / to sink low

Parts:

duò - to fall / sink / slip into / let fall / to degenerate

luò(là, lào) - to fall / to drop / (of the sun) to set / (of a tide) to go out / to lower / to decline / descend / go down / let fall / to wither / to sink / to lag / weaken / to fall behind / to fall onto / fallen / lose / to rest with / to get / to have / to receive / to write down / put (pen to paper) / whereabouts / settlement / village / tribe / settle down / cease / finish / to leave out / to be missing / to leave behind / to forget to bring / pile / heap / net income / surplus / natural and poised / (Cantonese) deliver / put in / apply

*Note: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified form of the Chinese version.

私塾

October 7, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shijuku

Japanese Meaning: private school (in house)

Parts:

shi(watakushi, watashi, atashi) - I / me / myself / private / personal

juku - cram school / private school / coaching school / cramming school / juku

*Note: The Japanese have multiple ways of saying “I”, “me”, etc. 私 (watashi) is the simplest polite way of saying “I” or “me”. 私 (watakushi) is very formal and 私 (atashi) is feminine. There are several more ways in various dialects and in differing degrees of politeness.

Chinese Pinyin: sīshú

Chinese Meaning: private school (in former times)

Parts:

sī - personal / private / person-to-person / selfish / selfishly / secret / clandestine / prejudiced / biased / favor / have illicit relations or an affair with / contraband / reproductive organs of both sexes

shú - private tutorage / village school / private school

覚醒/覺

October 8, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kakusei

Japanese Meaning: waking up / awakening / arousal / revival / disillusion / disillusionment / awakening (figurative)

Parts:

kaku(obo, sa, sato) - memorize / remember / memory / sense / experience / learn / awake / sober up

sei(sa, za) - awake / sober up / be disillusioned

Chinese Pinyin: juéxǐng

Chinese Meaning: to awaken / to come to realize / to realise / awakened to the truth / the truth dawns upon one / scales fall from the eyes / to become aware of

Parts:

jué(jiào) - feel / feeling / to find that / to sense / senses / thinking / awake / (become) aware / conscious / consciousness / realize / discover / awaken / to wake up from sleep / nap / sleep

xǐng - to wake up / to awaken / to be awake / sober up / come round / startle / come to understand / become aware / clear (in mind) / striking / eye-catching / (Cantonese) clever / smart / showing initiative / (Cantonese) give (guidance, money, a slap) / present (award)

*Note: another variant of the first character 覺

美貌

October 9, 2013

Japanese Romaji: bibou

Japanese Meaning: beautiful face / good looks / beauty

Parts:

bi(utsuku, mi) - beauty / beautiful / lovely / pretty / august (adjective)

bou(katachi) - appearance / countenance / form / visage

Chinese Pinyin: měimào

Chinese Meaning: beautiful face (of a woman) / beauty / good-looking

Parts:

měi - beauty / beautiful / lovely / pretty / pleasing / to be pleased with oneself / fine / fair / very
satisfactory / good / exquisite / nice / excellent / praise / delicious / USA / the Americas

mào - appearance / countenance / looks / face / aspect

*Note: a variant of the second character is 貌

肯定

October 10, 2013

Japanese Romaji: koutei

Japanese Meaning: positive / affirmation

Parts:

kou(unazu, gae) - agreement / comply with / consent

tei(sada, jou) - decide / determine / establish / fix

Chinese Pinyin: kěndìng

Chinese Meaning: affirmative / positive / to be sure / to be certain / definite / definitely / surely / to confirm / to affirm / to approve / approval / recognition

Parts:

kěn - to agree / to consent / to permit / to be ready (to do something) / be eager to / to be willing to

dìng - to set / to fix / settle / to determine / to decide / definite / sure / surely / certainly / definitely /

stable / calm / composed / remain / to order / to book / to subscribe / deposit / downpayment

*Note: a variant of the first character is 肯

抱負

October 11, 2013

Japanese Romaji: houfu

Japanese Meaning: aspiration / ambition / pretension / resolution

Parts:

hou(ida, kaka, gaka, da, bou) - embrace / hold in arms / hug

fu(o, ma, bu) - to bear / assume a responsibility / defeat / owe / minus / negative

Chinese Pinyin: bàofù

Chinese Meaning: aspiration / ambition

Parts:

bào - to hold (in arms) / to carry (in one's arms) / to hug or embrace / enfold / surround / cherish / to harbour / to nurse

fù - to bear / to carry (on one's back) / to shoulder / load / burden / responsibility / task / to turn one's back on / lose / loss / to be defeated / suffer (injury) / owe (debt) / enjoy (fame) / be proud and complacent / have at one's back / rely on / betray / breach / repudiate / let someone down / negative (math) / minus

瘦身/瘦

October 12, 2013

Japanese Romaji: soushin

Japanese Meaning: slim figure / weight loss done for cosmetic reasons / weight reduction / to lose weight

Parts:

sou(ya) - get thin

shin(mi) - body / oneself / person / somebody / one's place / one's position / one's station in life / main part / meat (as opposed to bone, skin, etc.) / wood (as opposed to bark) / blade (as opposed to its handle) / container (as opposed to its lid) / sword

Chinese Pinyin: shòushēn

Chinese Meaning: slim figure / weight reduction / to lose weight / slim down / to go on a diet

Parts:

shòu - thin / slim / scrawny / skinny / emaciated / to lose weight / (of clothing) tight / (of meal) lean / meager / (of land) unproductive

shēn - body / life / oneself / one's own person / personally / in person / one's morality and conduct / the main part of a structure or body / trunk / hull / a child in the womb / counter for sets of clothes: suit, twinset

未遂

October 12, 2013

Japanese Romaji: misui

Japanese Meaning: attempt (e.g. at crime) without success

Parts:

mi(ima, hitsuji, ma) - not yet / un- (prefix) / still / even now / hitherto / sign of the ram (zodiac) / eighth sign of the Chinese zodiac

sui(tsui, to) - accomplish / attain / consummate / commit (suicide)

Chinese Pinyin: wèisui

Chinese Meaning: unsuccessful (attempt) / attempted (murder, suicide) / not accomplished / aborted

Parts:

wèi - not yet / did not / have not / not / still / sign of the ram (zodiac) / eighth sign of the Chinese zodiac

sui - to satisfy / fulfill / get one's way / to succeed / complete / get the job done / comply with / follow along / then / thereupon / consequently / finally / unexpectedly / to proceed / to reach / smooth / unhindered (especially one's physical condition)

*Note: a variant of the second character is 豕

来訪/來

October 13, 2013

Japanese Romaji: raihou

Japanese Meaning: visit / call

Parts:

rai(ki, kita, ku, ko, tai) - come / next (year, etc.) / coming (year, etc.) / since (last month, etc.) / in (a span of time) / due / cause / become

hou(otozu, tazu, to, bou) - call on / visit / look up / offer sympathy

Chinese Pinyin: láifǎng

Chinese Meaning: to pay a visit

Parts:

lái - come / coming / arrive / occur / future / next / to come back / to come round / return / returning / ever since / for / in / during / over / particle used after a verb to indicate the result / particle used after more than one numeral to list the point

fǎng - to visit / to call on / to seek / ask / to inquire / look for / find out / to investigate

*Note: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

陛下

October 13, 2013

Japanese Romaji: heika

Japanese Meaning: Your Majesty / His or Her Majesty

Parts:

hei - highness / steps (of throne)

ka(o, kuda, sa, shita, shimo, moto, ge, he) - down / below / under / bottom / underneath / beneath / low / descend / just after / right after / inferiority / one's inferior / one's junior / younger (e.g. of siblings) / trade-in / give / preliminary / preparatory / lowness (of degree, value, etc.) / second volume (of two) / third volume (of three) / under (being in said condition or environment) / under (influence or guidance) / lower reaches (of a river) / lower part / lower half (of the body, especially the privates) / base / faeces / feces / urine / menses / dirty (e.g. dirty jokes) / end / far from the imperial palace (i.e. far from Kyoto, esp. of western Japan)

Chinese Pinyin: bìxià

Chinese Meaning: Your Majesty / His or Her Majesty

Parts:

bì - the steps to the throne / throne

xià - down / downwards / below / lower / under / underneath / beneath / less than / on / into / off / inferior / low / of the bottom part / later / next (week, etc.) / second (of two parts) / upcoming / of a later time / with / descend / to decline / fall down / to go down / come down to / disembark / to get out of / leave off / to bring down / to put down / set down / lower into / apply / put forth / to put in / to arrive at (a decision, conclusion etc.) / lay / to issue (something) / to deliver / to send / to give / formulate / work something out / to begin / to finish / (animal) to give birth / to lay (eggs) / (verb particle indicating space or capacity) / (used after a verb to express height) / (used after a verb to express the separation of an object) / (used after a verb to express the end of an action) / (noun suffix indicating a certain time or season) / (verb measure indicating repetition or duration) / counter to show the frequency of an action

*Note: a variant of the second character is 𠂔

御酒

October 14, 2013

Japanese Romaji: osake / goshu / miki

Japanese Meaning: (osake, goshu) alcohol / sake (Japanese rice wine) / liquor / (miki) sacred wine or sake / sake offered to the gods

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 酒 (jiǔ) for the meaning of “alcohol”, 清酒 (qīngjiǔ) for the meaning of Japanese “sake”

Parts:

o(go, on, mi, gyo) - honorific prefix / honorable / honourable / govern / manipulate / august (adjective) / beautiful / imperial / emperor / honorific prefix added to gods and other spiritually important things.

Also added to other nouns to indicate godlike respect / added to place names to emphasize beauty

sake(saka, zake, shu, ki) - alcoholic beverage / sake (Japanese rice wine) / alcohol

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as お酒 (osake) for the meaning of “alcohol” or “sake”. “Sacred wine” can also be written as 神酒 (miki). Sake can also be specifically referred to as 日本酒 (nihonshu).

*Note 2: In Japanese, many words are prefixed with お(o) or ご(go) to make them more polite or honorific. Some words always have one of them in casual conversation (such as “osake”). Both prefixes can be replaced with the first character, although this is uncommon because of the complexity.

Chinese Pinyin: yùjiǔ

Chinese Meaning: imperial wine / sacred wine

Parts:

yù - imperial / palace / court / to manage / to govern / reign over / administer / to resist / (classical) to drive (a chariot or carriage) / to ride / chariot

jiǔ - alcoholic beverage / alcoholic drinks (brewed or distilled) / wine (especially rice wine) / liquor / spirits

*Note 3: the first character is also the simplified Chinese version of 禦. Another variant of the first character is 馭

泰然

October 14, 2013

Japanese Romaji: taizen

Japanese Meaning: calm / composed / self-possessed / firm

Parts:

tai - calm / easy / peaceful / peace / Thailand

zen(sa, shika, nen) - if so / in that case / so / well / sort of thing / -like / yeah / uh-huh

Chinese Pinyin: tài rán

Chinese Meaning: calm / composed / self-composed / self-possessed / unperturbed / unalarmed / unagitated / equanimous

Parts:

tài - safe / stable / peaceful / grand / great / exalted / superior / big / most / extreme / excessive / Thailand

rán - correct / right / yes / (most) certainly / so / thus / like this / -ly / pledge / promise / permission / however / but / still / nevertheless / on the other hand / really / if so

*Note: 2 variants of the first character are 泰 and 泰 A variant of the second character is 然

哲学/學

October 15, 2013

Japanese Romaji: tetsugaku

Japanese Meaning: philosophy

Parts:

tetsu - clear / philosophy

gaku(mana) - learning / learn / study / education / school / scholarship / erudition / science / knowledge
/ (suffix) study of

Chinese Pinyin: zhéxué

Chinese Meaning: philosophy

Parts:

zhé - philosophy / wise / sagacious / learned / intellectual / wise man / sage / thinker / philosopher

xué - learning / to learn / to study / imitate / to copy / school / college / academy / knowledge /
erudition / science / subject / discipline / branch of learning / (suffix) study of / -ology / (Cantonese)
relate / report speech / (Cantonese) like / similar to

*Note 1: 3 variants of the first character are 喆 嘉 哲 2 more variants of the second character are 孝
and 學

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese
character.

挫折

October 16, 2013

Japanese Romaji: zasetsu

Japanese Meaning: frustration / setback / discouragement

Parts:

za(kuji) - to break / to crush / discourage / sprain

setsu(o, ori) - fold / pleat / crease / bend / break / fracture / opportunity / chance / occasion / time /

submit / yield / small food box

Chinese Pinyin: cuòzhé

Chinese Meaning: setback / obstacle / reverse / reversal / check / defeat / frustration / disappointment / to frustrate / to discourage / to set somebody back / to blunt / to subdue

Parts:

cuò - suffer a defeat or setback / frustrate / subdue / defeat / push down / chop down / grind / obstructed / to fail / to oppress / to repress / to lower the tone / to bend back / to dampen

zhé(shé, zhē) - to break / break off / to fracture / to snap / to suffer loss / lose / to bend / to fold / to twist / to turn / to change direction / turn back / to turn something over / to turn upside-down / to tip something out (of a container) / roll over / turn over / pour water back and forth (between two containers) / convinced / filled with admiration / to convert into (currency) / amount to / discount / rebate / tenth (in price) / accounts book / lose money (in business) / scene (in a play) / act / counter for theatrical scenes (act)

*Note: the first character is also the simplified Chinese version of 摺

閑暇

October 17, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kanka

Japanese Meaning: leisure

Parts:

kan(shizu, hima) - leisure / spare time / free time / time off / day off / vacation / holiday / leave /

quitting (one's job) / firing someone / divorcing (spouse) / slow (business)

ka(itoma, hima) - leisure / rest / spare time / free time / time / idle / time off / day off / vacation /

holiday / leave of absence / vacant / quitting (one's job) / firing someone / divorcing (spouse) / slow

(business) / loss of one's job / farewell / leaving / departing

*Note 1: 長閑 (tranquil / calm / quiet / peaceful) is read as "nodoka".

Chinese Pinyin: xiánxiá

Chinese Meaning: leisure / free time / unoccupied / not in use

Parts:

xián - to stay idle / idle time / to be unoccupied / not busy / leisure / enclosure / fence / barrier / railings
/ defend / guard / hinder / laws / regulations

xiá - leisure / relaxation / spare time / free time

*Note 2: in Chinese, a variant of this word is 閒暇

*Note 3: a variant of the first character is 閒

否決

October 18, 2013

Japanese Romaji: hiketsu

Japanese Meaning: rejection / negation / voting down / decline / refusal (by decision making entities such as a court or parliament)

Parts:

hi(ina, iya, pi) - deny / negate / decline / refuse / no / the noes / nay / well / er / why

ketsu(ki, gi) - decision / vote / agree upon / decide / appoint / fix

Chinese Pinyin: fǒujué

Chinese Meaning: to vote down / veto / overrule

Parts:

fǒu(pǐ) - to negate / to deny / whether or not / not / no / negative / final particle / clogged / evil / bad / wicked / censure / criticize

jué - to decide / to determine / conclude / to judge / to execute (someone) / put someone to death / (of a dam, etc.) to breach, break, or burst / definitely / certainly / sure / certain / definite

頃刻

October 19, 2013

Japanese Romaji: keikoku

Japanese Meaning: short period

Parts:

kei(koro, goro) - (approximate) time / at that time / around / about / toward / suitable time (or condition) / time of year / season / qing (Chinese unit of land area equal to 100 mu)

koku(kiza) - chop / cut fine / hash / mince / cutting / mincing / engrave / carving / engraving / strictness / cruelty / time / scratch / archaic period of time (usually a period of approximately two hours corresponding to one of the signs of the Chinese zodiac)

Chinese Pinyin: qǐngkè

Chinese Meaning: in a short moment / instantly / in no time

Parts:

qǐng(qīng) - a moment / a short while / an instant / a little while ago / just now / just / a little before / circa. (for approximate dates) / to lean / unit of area equal to 100 畝 or 6.67 hectares

kè - quarter (hour) / moment / to carve / to engrave / things carved / to cut / describe / depict / portray / oppressive / unkind / harsh / cruel / profound / deeply / firmly / counter for short time intervals

*Note: the first character is a variant of 頃

塑性

October 19, 2013

Japanese Romaji: sosei

Japanese Meaning: plasticity

Parts:

so - model / molding

sei(saga, shou) - nature (of a person or thing) / character / characteristic / gender / sex / (suffix) -ty / -ity / -ness / -cy / content / one's destiny / custom / tradition / habit / (Buddhism) that which does not change according to external influences

Chinese Pinyin: sùxìng

Chinese Meaning: plasticity

Parts:

sù - to model (a figure) in clay, etc. / sculpt / figure / model / plastics

xìng - nature / character / disposition / temper / quality or property / natural property / attribute / gender / sex / sexuality / essence / suffix forming adjective from verb / suffix forming noun from adjective, corresponding to -ness or -ity

*Note: a variant of the first character is 埴

自嘲

October 20, 2013

Japanese Romaji: jichou

Japanese Meaning: self-deprecation / self-derision / self-mockery / self-ridicule / laughing at oneself

Parts:

ji(ono, mizuka, shi) - oneself / self / self- (prefix) / from...

chou(azake, aza) - insult / ridicule / sneer / (a bird) sing

Chinese Pinyin: zìcháo

Chinese Meaning: self-mockery / to mock oneself / to laugh at oneself

Parts:

zì - oneself / self / personal / private / from / since / natural / naturally

cháo(zhāo) - to ridicule / to mock / deride / scorn / jeer at / sneer at / (onomatopoeia) twitter /

twittering sound / twittery / chirpy

例題

October 20, 2013

Japanese Romaji: reidai

Japanese Meaning: example / exercise (for the reader)

Parts:

rei(tato, tameshi) - custom / practice / habit / usual / example / instance / case / illustration / usage / precedent / said / aforementioned / that / annual

dai - subject / topic / title / theme / problem (on a test) / question / counter for questions (on a test)

Chinese Pinyin: lìtí

Chinese Meaning: an example / (in a textbook) a question or problem for which an answer or a solution is provided for the student

Parts:

lì - example / precedent / instance / something with which to compare / practice / rule / regulation / case / regular / routine

tí - topic / subject / problem for discussion / theme / title of a composition or speech / headline / to inscribe / write / to sign / to mention / commentaries / notes / exam question / signal / sign / forehead / end / top / the ornamental woodwork under the eaves of public buildings

矯正

October 21, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kyousei

Japanese Meaning: correction / remedy

Parts:

kyou(ta) - to correct / cure / rectify / reform / straighten / control / falsify / pretend

sei(tada, masa, shou, jou) - correct / exact / precise / (logical) true / regular / (abbreviation) original / (math) positive / greater than zero / justice / righteous / greater (of equal court ranks) / upper / senior / director (highest of the four administrative positions of the ritsuryo period) / chief / (before a number) exactly / precisely / 10⁴⁰

Chinese Pinyin: jiǎozhèng

Chinese Meaning: to correct / to rectify (e.g. a physical defect such as hearing or vision) / remedy / to cure / rectification / correction / to straighten

Parts:

jiǎo(jiáo) - to correct / to rectify / straighten out / to redress / strong / brave / powerful / to pretend / feign / falsify / affectation / argumentative / contentious

zhèng(zhēng) - correct / right / just / proper / appropriate / positive / primary / main / chief / principal / standard / regular (shapes) / honest / upright / straight / middle / exact / exactly / precisely / just so / just now / right now / just happening / just continuing / (of time) punctual / sharp (on time) / standardized / unbiased / formal / rectify / to correct / set right / principle / pure / unadulterated / genuine / not contaminated / unmixed / pretty / straightforward / straighten / greater than zero / plus / obverse / person in charge / person in command / original (texts, etc.) / sharp / punctually / first / placed or situated in the middle / 10⁴⁰ / first month of the lunar year / first moon

*Note 1: the second character is often used for tallying, much like English-speakers use 4 lines and a slash to represent "5" (note that it has five strokes).

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 矯

尽力/盡

October 22, 2013

Japanese Romaji: jinryoku

Japanese Meaning: efforts / making an effort / doing one's best / endeavor / assistance / help

Parts:

jin(kotogoto, zu, tsu, tsuku, dzu) - use up / run out of / deplete / exhaust / befriend / serve / (suffix) last day (of the month)

ryoku(chikara, riki) - power / strength / energy / force / might / vigor / vigour / strong / strain / effort / endeavours / endeavors / exert / exertions / bear up / capability / ability / proficiency / capacity / faculty / efficacy / effect / authority / influence / good offices / agency / support / help / aid / assistance / stress / emphasis / means / resources

Chinese Pinyin: jìn lì

Chinese Meaning: to do one's best / to strive one's hardest / to spare no effort / to make efforts / to exert oneself / to do all one can

Parts:

jìn - to use up / to exhaust / deplete / to end / to finish / to the utmost / exhausted / finished / to the limit (of something) / entirely / totally / completely

lì - power / strength / force / strong / vigor / ability / capability / influence / strain / exert / strenuously / earnestly / vigorously / do one's best

*Note: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character and of 儘

捕獲

October 23, 2013

Japanese Romaji: hokaku

Japanese Meaning: capture / seizure

Parts:

ho(tsuka, to, tora) - capture / catch

kaku(e, to) - acquire / find / get / earn / seize / able to / can / may

Chinese Pinyin: bǔhuò

Chinese Meaning: to catch / to capture / to seize

Parts:

bǔ - to catch / to seize / to capture / to arrest / apprehend / policeman

huò - to catch / to obtain / to capture / seize / get / win / gain / receive

*Note: in Chinese, the second character has the same simplified form as 穫

崇拜/拜

October 24, 2013

Japanese Romaji: suuhai

Japanese Meaning: worship / adoration / admiration / cult

Parts:

suu(aga) - adore / respect / revere / worship

hai(oga, pai) - worship / bowing one's head (in respect or worship) / pray to / adore / respectfully yours

Chinese Pinyin: chóngbài

Chinese Meaning: to worship / adoration / idolize

Parts:

chóng - to worship / to esteem / to honor / revere / respect / venerate / high / sublime / lofty / towering

bài - to pay respect / worship / to bow / do obeisance / to pray / pay a visit / to call on / to salute /

kowtow / appoint (as a government official) / appointment / bye / farewell

*Note: the second character can be used in informal Chinese to say good-bye (拜拜 bàibài). This is a transliteration of the English phrase "bye-bye". Japanese also has バイバイ (baibai).

瞬間

October 25, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shunkan

Japanese Meaning: moment / instant / second / the moment that something happens

Parts:

shun(matata, mabata, shibata, shibatata, majiro) - blink / twinkle / wink

kan(ai, aida, ma, ken) - interval / period of time / space (between) / among / between / during / inter- / gap / distance / room / time (between) / pause / break / span (temporal or spatial) / stretch / period (while) / relationship (between, among) / members (within, among) / (archaism) due to, because of / 1.818 m (6 shaku) / counter used to number the gaps between pillars

Chinese Pinyin: shùnjiān

Chinese Meaning: moment / momentary / instant / in a flash / instantaneous / in the twinkling of an eye

Parts:

shùn - to wink / blink / in a wink / a flash / twinkle / twinkling / instant

jiān(jiàn) - interval / space / between / among / relationship among / place / within a definite time or space / room / cubicle / workshop / gap / opening / break / to separate / alternate / partition / to thin out (seedlings) / to sow discontent / sow discord / drive a wedge / section of a room or lateral space between two pairs of pillars / counter for rooms, shops, houses, bedrooms, buildings, etc.

*Note: a variant of the first character is 晷 A variant of the second character is 閒

報酬

October 26, 2013

Japanese Romaji: houshuu

Japanese Meaning: remuneration / reward / recompense / toll

Parts:

hou(muku) - news / report / information / tell / announce / retribution / reward

shuu(muku) - repay / retribution / reward

Chinese Pinyin: bàochóu

Chinese Meaning: reward / remuneration

Parts:

bào - news / to report / a report / newspaper / periodical / journal / tell / inform / announce /
recompense / repay / revenge / to avenge / reward / retribution

chóu - to entertain / to repay / to return / to reward / to remunerate / to compensate / recompense / a
reward / remuneration / payment / to reply / to answer / propose a toast / socialize with / fulfill / to
realize / materialize

*Note: 3 variants of the second character are 酬 酬 酬

帳簿

October 26, 2013

Japanese Romaji: choubo

Japanese Meaning: account book / register

Parts:

chou(tobari) - notebook / album / account book / register / curtain / hanging / bunting

bo - record book / a register

*Note 1: 蚊帳 (mosquito net) has the reading of “kaya”

Chinese Pinyin: zhàngbù

Chinese Meaning: account book

Parts:

zhàng - covering veil / canopy / curtain / screen / tent / mosquito net

bù - a register / account book / record book / notebook / a book

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 賬

派遣

October 27, 2013

Japanese Romaji: haken

Japanese Meaning: dispatch / despatch / deployment

Parts:

ha(pa) - clique / faction / group / party / school / sect / (political) wing

ken(tsuka, dzuka, ya, yoko, cha) - dispatch / despatch / send / do / undertake / donate / give

Chinese Pinyin: pàiqiǎn

Chinese Meaning: to send (on a mission) / to dispatch

Parts:

pài - clique / school / faction / group / school of thought / sect / political group / branch / tributary / river branches / to dispatch / to despatch / to send / to assign / apportion / to pass out / to appoint / the circular ratio pi = 3.1415926... / (loanword) pie / style / stylish / manner / air / counter for speeches, scenes, an atmosphere, etc.

qiǎn - dispatch / send / send off / repatriate / exile / banish / dispel

飼育

October 27, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shi'iku

Japanese Meaning: raising (animals) / breeding / rearing

Parts:

shi(ka, ga) - domesticate / feed / keep / raise

iku(soda, haguku) - bring up / grow up / raise (a child, etc.) / rear (a child, etc.)

Chinese Pinyin: sìyù

Chinese Meaning: to rear (an animal)

Parts:

sì - to raise (animals) / to rear / to feed / to keep (an animal) / nourish

yù - produce / give birth to / breed / educate / bring up / grow up / to have children / raise (a child, etc.)
/ rear (a child, etc.) / nourish / to nurse

*Note: a variant of the first character is 飢 A variant of the second character is 毓

孵化

October 28, 2013

Japanese Romaji: fuka

Japanese Meaning: incubation / hatching

Parts:

fu(kae) - hatch / incubate

ka(ba, fu, ke) - act of making something / -ification (suffix of making something that way) / -ization (suffix) / influence / take the form of / change / enchant / delude

Chinese Pinyin: fūhuà

Chinese Meaning: to incubate / breeding / to emerge from eggs / to spawn / innovation (especially in commerce and marketing)

Parts:

fū - breeding / to incubate / to hatch / brood / sit on eggs

huà(huā) - to make into / to change into / -ification (suffix of making something that way) / -ization (suffix) / to ...-ize / -ise (suffix) / -ify (suffix) / -ate (suffix) / convert / reform / to transform / influence / melt / dissolve / reduce / customs and habits / beg alms / (abbreviation) chemistry 化學 (huàxué)

*Note: a variant of the first character is 𪛗. The second character is also a variant of 花

山村

October 29, 2013

Japanese Romaji: sanson

Japanese Meaning: mountain village

Parts:

san(zan, sen, yama) - mountain / hill / mine (e.g. coal mine) / heap / pile / crown (of a hat) / thread (of a screw) / tread (of a tire) / climax / peak / critical point / guess / speculation / criminal case / crime / festival float (especially one mounted with a decorative halberd) / (prefix) wild / Mt. (suffix used with the names of mountains) / Mount

son(mura) - town / village

Chinese Pinyin: shāncūn

Chinese Meaning: mountain village

Parts:

shān - mountain / hill / peak / anything that resembles a mountain / bundled straw in which silkworms spin cocoons / gable

cūn - village / hamlet / countryside / uncouth / vulgar / coarse / naïve / simple-minded / embarrass / (archaic) scold

*Note: a variant of the second character is 邨

孤島

October 30, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kotou

Japanese Meaning: solitary island

Parts:

ko(minashi) - alone / solitude / orphan

tou(shima, jima) - island / Island (in placenames) / territory (of a prostitute, organized crime gang, etc.) / turf

Chinese Pinyin: gūdǎo

Chinese Meaning: isolated island / isolated region

Parts:

gū - alone / isolated / lone / lonely / solitary / orphan / fatherless

dǎo - island / isle

*Note: Variants of the second character include 寫 and 嶋, which are used in some Japanese names.

Other variants of the second character are 壘嶸

幽霊/靈

October 31, 2013

Japanese Romaji: yuurei

Japanese Meaning: ghost / spectre / specter / apparition / phantom

Parts:

yuu(kasu) - calm / deep / profound / faint / dark / seclude / secluded / tranquil / confine to a room

rei(tama, dama, ryou) - soul / spirit / departed soul / ghost

Chinese Pinyin: yōulíng

Chinese Meaning: specter / spectre / apparition / ghost / dark spirit

Parts:

yōu - remote (area) / hidden away / secret / secluded / lonely / solitary / quiet / serene / peaceful / tranquil / deep / profound / dark / gloomy / obscure / to imprison / confine / in superstition indicates the underworld

líng - spirit / (departed) soul / spiritual world / god / deity / holy or supernatural being / miraculous / mysterious / quick / alert / bright / quick-witted / clever / sharp (mind) / nimble / agile / deft / adroit / smooth / efficacious / effective / works well / coffin / bier / thing concerning the deceased

*Note: another variant of the second character is 靈

油井

November 1, 2013

Japanese Romaji: yusei

Japanese Meaning: oil well

Parts:

yu(abura) - oil / fat

sei(i, jou) - a well / well crib / well curb / town / community

Chinese Pinyin: yóujǐng

Chinese Meaning: oil well

Parts:

yóu - oil / fat / grease / lard / paints / varnish / lacquer / petroleum / oily / greasy / slippery / to apply
tung oil, paint, or varnish / cunning / glib / sly

jǐng - a well / well-shaped thing / mineshaft / pit / home village or town / neat / orderly

上旬

November 2, 2013

Japanese Romaji: joujun

Japanese Meaning: first 10 days of the month / first third of a month

Parts:

jou(a, ue, uwa, kami, nobo, shan, shou) - above / up / upper / upward / outer / over / summit / top / surface / in / on / before / previous / superiority / elder (e.g. sibling) / one's superior / one's elder / on top of that / besides / what's more / upon (further inspection, etc.) / based on (and occurring after) / matters concerning... / as concerns... / since (for that reason) / suffix indicating higher social standing / (archaism) place of one's superior (i.e. the throne) / (archaism) emperor / sovereign / shogun / daimyo / (archaism) noblewoman (especially the wife of a nobleman) / upper reaches (of a river) / upper stream / upper part / upper half (of body) / long ago / beginning / the start / first (of multiple parts) / person of high rank (e.g. emperor) / government / governmental / imperial / imperial court / imperial capital (i.e. Kyoto) / capital region (i.e. Kansai) / region (or direction of) the imperial palace / head (of a table) / (honorific) wife / mistress (of a restaurant) / from the standpoint of / as a matter of (fact) / in the field of / being a type of / aboard (a ship or vehicle) / on top of / first volume (e.g. book) / superior quality / best / high class / going up / presenting / showing / ana- (medical, biology)

jun(shun) - 10-day period / season (for specific products, e.g. fruit, fish) / decameron

*Note 1: the verb 逆上せる (“to feel dizzy”, “to have blood rush to one’s head”, or “to become conceited (it’s gone to his/her head)”) is read as “noboseru”; the reading of 上手い (which has several meanings such as “skillful”, “fortunate”, “delicious”, etc.) is “umai”. (Not to be confused with 上手 (skillful), which is usually read as “jouzu”).

Chinese Pinyin: shàngxún

Chinese Meaning: first 10 days of the month / first third of a month

Parts:

shàng(shǎng) - above / up / upward / to (a higher level) / on top / summit / on / in / regarding / over / upon / upper / higher / high place / previous / last / preceding / former / prior / first (of multiple parts) / before / to climb / to get onto / ascend / mount / board / to go up / send up / to attend (class or university) / go to / leave for (a place) / to go to court / to present / superior / senior / highest / best / better / emperor / affix / fit / install / apply / put on / place in position / be as many as / be up to / reach / appear on stage / enter the field / to put on record / be published / screw / tighten / twist / to wind / wind up / (verb particle indicating direction or achievement) / (phonetics) rising tone or fall-rising tone / (mahjong) chow / call to create a run/sequence

xún - ten days / ten-day period / ten years / ten-year period (usually used to indicate a person's age) / full period / period of time

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 上

庶民

November 2, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shomin

Japanese Meaning: common people / commoners / masses

Parts:

sho - all / commoner / bastard

min(tami) - nation / people / subjects

Chinese Pinyin: shùmín

Chinese Meaning: commoner / ordinary citizen / the multitude of common people (in highbrow literature) / plebeian

Parts:

shù - numerous / various / multitude / multitudinous / general / common people (or populace) / children born of a concubine / if only / may be / almost / nearly

mín - the people / nationality / citizen / subjects / the populace / the public / civilians

*Note: a variant of the first character is 庶

尋常

November 3, 2013

Japanese Romaji: jinjou

Japanese Meaning: common / usual / ordinary / pleasant / graceful / fair / sportsmanlike

Parts:

jin(tazu, hiro) - inquire / look for / fathom

jou(tsune, toko) - normal / ordinary / regular / usual state of things / usual / always / ever / endless / eternal

Chinese Pinyin: xúncháng

Chinese Meaning: common / usual / ordinary

Parts:

xún - to search / to look for / to seek / ancient

cháng - common / general / normal / ordinary / constant / frequent / frequently / regular / regularly / often / usual / always / ever / long / lasting / permanent (jobs, etc.) / eternal / ordinarily / usually / on ordinary occasions / rule / principle

*Note: a variant of the second character is 憲

江戸/戸

November 3, 2013

Japanese Romaji: edo

Japanese Meaning: Edo (old name of Tokyo, Japan)

Parts:

e(kou) - bay / inlet / creek / cove / (archaism) large river (especially the Yangtze) / Lake Biwa

do(ko, to, be) - door (especially Japanese-style) / counter for houses

Chinese Pinyin: jiānghù

Chinese Meaning: Edo (old name of Tokyo, Japan)

Parts:

jiāng - large river / Yangtze river

hù - door / family / a household

求愛

November 4, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kyuuai

Japanese Meaning: courtship / wooing

Parts:

kyuu(moto, gyuu, gu) - request / want / wish for / demand / require

ai(ito, mana, me, wai) - love / favorite / affection / before a common noun, expresses a sense of admiration or value: good, genuine / before a noun describing a person, expresses praise or fondness: dear, beloved

Chinese Pinyin: qiú'ài

Chinese Meaning: courtship / wooing

Parts:

qiú - to seek / to look for / to request / to demand / to beseech / solicit / ask for / covet / desire

ài - to love / be fond of / to like / be kind to / affection / kindness / benevolence / likes / be apt to / to want (an object, not an activity)

*Note: a variant of the first character is 馱 A variant of the second character is 悉

被告

November 5, 2013

Japanese Romaji: hikoku

Japanese Meaning: defendant / the accused

Parts:

hi(oo, kabu, kamu, kazu, koumu, pi) - cover / put on / veil / wear / shelter / incur / receiving / be exposed (film) / brood over / indicates the target of an activity / -ee (e.g. employee, examinee, trustee)
koku(tsu) - announce / inform / tell / revelation

Chinese Pinyin: bèigào

Chinese Meaning: defendant / the accused

Parts:

bèi - quilt / bedding / blanket / sheet / cover / envelope / shroud / (literary) to cover / by (indicates passive-voice clauses) / be (used before passive verb when the doer of the action is not mentioned) / suffer (from) / / to meet with
gào - announce / proclaim / declare / inform / notify / report to / tell / to say / accuse / prosecute / to sue / complain about / tell on / ask for / request / solicit / advise / counsel / admonish

恐慌

November 6, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kyoukou

Japanese Meaning: panic / scare / consternation / a financial panic / financial scare

Parts:

kyou(oso, kowa) - dread / fear / awe / be afraid / threaten / probably

kou(awa, awatada) - be confused / disconcerted / lose one's head

Chinese Pinyin: kǒnghuāng

Chinese Meaning: panic / panicky / panic-stricken

Parts:

kǒng - fear / fearful / afraid / frightened / to fear / dread / be scared of / apprehensive / terrify / intimidate / threaten / perhaps / probably / may

huāng - to get panicky / to lose one's head / nervous / frantic / flustered / flurried / confused / (colloquial) (after 得) unbearably / terribly

囚徒

November 7, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shuuto

Japanese Meaning: prisoner / a convict

Parts:

shuu(tora) - arrest / captured / catch / criminal

to(ada, itazura, kachi, tada) - emptiness / futility / uselessness / vain / transient / ephemeral thing /
frivolous / vanity / junior / gang / people / party / set / foot soldier (Edo period) / samurai on foot /
(archaism) going on foot / walking / ordinary / common / usual / free of charge / unaffected / as is / safe
/ only / merely / just / simply / but / however / nonetheless

Chinese Pinyin: qiútú

Chinese Meaning: prisoner

Parts:

qiú - prisoner / convict / confine / imprison / gaol

tú - disciple / apprentice / follower / believer / go (walk, be) on foot / bare / empty / barehanded /
unarmed / to no avail / merely / only / futile / in vain / only / prison sentence / imprisonment /
(pejorative) guy / fellow / gang

挽回

November 8, 2013

Japanese Romaji: bankai

Japanese Meaning: recovery / restoration / revival / retrieval / redemption / comeback / catch up

Parts:

ban(hi, hiki, bi) - grind / saw / turn (lathe)

kai(mawa, megu, motoo, e) - turn / -times (suffix) / occasion / revolve / game / round / counter for occurrences / counter for games, rounds, etc. / inning (baseball)

Chinese Pinyin: wǎnhuí

Chinese Meaning: to retrieve / to redeem / (of damages, reputation, lost fortune, etc.) to save / to recover / to try with effort to turn back an adverse tide

Parts:

wǎn - to pull / to draw (a cart or bow) / pull back / draw back / retrieve / reverse / to lead (an animal) / hold somebody's arm / carry something with the crook of one's arm / an elegy (for use in funeral procession) / to turn (change direction) / to roll up (a scroll, sleeves, etc.) / to coil

huí - to turn around / to go back / to return / rotate / to circle / to revolve / to answer / reply / report back / politely refuse / decline / dismiss / a time / counter for occurrences / counter for acts of a play / section or chapter (of a classic book) / (counter) piece (as used for happenings or events) / Hui ethnic group (Chinese Muslims)

*Note 1: the first character is also the simplified Chinese version of 輓 The second character is also the simplified Chinese version of 迴

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 輓 2 variants of the second character are 回 and 迴

治癒

November 9, 2013

Japanese Romaji: chiyu

Japanese Meaning: recovery / healing / cure

Parts:

chi(osa, nao, ji) - be at peace / calm down / quell / heal / cure / subdue / conserve / government / reign / to rule

yu(i, iya) - cure / healing / quench (thirst) / wreak

Chinese Pinyin: zhìyù

Chinese Meaning: to cure / to heal

Parts:

zhì - to rule / to govern / to regulate / to manage / to control / to administer / the seat of the local government / to harness (a river) / cure / treatment / treat (disease) / to heal / study / research / punish / peaceful and orderly

yù - to heal / get well / recover

*Note 1: the second character is also a Chinese variant of 愈

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 紿 A variant of the second character is 瘵

迅速

November 9, 2013

Japanese Romaji: jinsoku

Japanese Meaning: quick / fast / rapid / swift / prompt / streamlined / expedited / expeditious

Parts:

jin - fast / swift

soku(sumi, haya) - fast / quick / speed / gear (as in 4 speed automatic transmission and such)

Chinese Pinyin: xùnsù

Chinese Meaning: quick / fast / rapid / swift / speedy / prompt

Parts:

xùn - rapid / quick / swift / fast / speedy / prompt / hasty / sudden

sù - fast / rapid / quick / prompt / speedy / velocity / rapidity / speed / invite / court

*Note: this term usually refers to the speed in which events occur or tasks are completed rather than the speed at which an object moves

嫌疑

November 10, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kengi

Japanese Meaning: suspicion

Parts:

ken(iya, kira, gira, gen) - detest / dislike / hate / disagreeable / detestable / unpleasant / disgusting / offensive / reluctant

gi(utaga, utagu) - distrust / doubt / question / be suspicious / suspicion (of)

Chinese Pinyin: xiányí

Chinese Meaning: suspicion / to have suspicions / (be) suspected (of)

Parts:

xián - to dislike / hate / detest / complain of / be dissatisfied at / suspicion / to suspect / criticize / resentment / enmity / grudge / ill will / (abbreviation) criminal suspect 嫌犯 (xiánfàn)

yí - to doubt / to misbelieve / to suspect / to question / doubtful / dubious / skeptical / suspicious / strange / incomprehensible / mysterious / questionable / sham / dummy / false

漂白

November 10, 2013

Japanese Romaji: hyouhaku

Japanese Meaning: blanching / bleaching

Parts:

hyou(tadayo) - drift / float (on liquid)

haku(shiro, shira, paku, byaku) - white / a white Go stone / innocence / (manga slang) good guy, 'white hat'

Chinese Pinyin: piǎobái

Chinese Meaning: to bleach / to whiten

Parts:

piǎo(piāo, piào) - to bleach / to float / to drift / tossed about / elegant / polished

bái - white / clear / to make clear / pure / snowy / unblemished / bright / clean / plain / empty / blank / in vain / for nothing / gratuitous / free of charge / gratis / reactionary / anti-communist / funeral / to stare coldly / to write wrong character / to state / to explain / vernacular / spoken lines in opera

銘記

November 11, 2013

Japanese Romaji: meiki

Japanese Meaning: have something branded on one's mind / keep in mind / take note of / remember

Parts:

mei - inscription / signature (of an artisan)

ki(shiru) - record / account / history / narrative / scribe / chronicle / annals / write down / note /
memorize / remember / keep in mind / statement (often used as a heading in letters, notices and other
documents) / inscription / mention / describe / mark

Chinese Pinyin: míngjì

Chinese Meaning: to engrave in one's memory / always remember

Parts:

míng - to engrave / carve / inscribe / inscription / epigraph / inscribed motto / unforgettably

jì - record / account / history / chronicle / annals / register / mark / sign / write down / to note /
memorize / remember / keep in mind / call to mind / bear in mind / a book recording persons,
anecdotes, etc. / seals / chops

脱臼/脱

November 12, 2013

Japanese Romaji: dakkyuu

Japanese Meaning: dislocation (of a joint)

Parts:

datsu(nu) - de- (indicating reversal, removal, etc.) / undress / take off / removing / get rid of / be left out / escape from

kyuu(usu) - mortar / millstone

Chinese Pinyin: tuōjiù

Chinese Meaning: dislocation (of a joint)

Parts:

tuō - undress / to take off / peel off / strip off / to shed / come off / remove / get rid of / cast off / slough off / leave off / get out of / to escape from / to get away from / omit / leave out / miss out (words)

jiù - mortar for unhusking rice / mortar-shaped / joint (of bones) / bone joint socket

権柄/權

November 13, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kenpei

Japanese Meaning: power / authority

Parts:

ken(gon) - authority / power / right (to do something)

pei(e, gara, kara, tsuka, dzuka, hi, hei) - handle (of a tool) / grip / stalk (of a mushroom, leaf, etc.) / stem / trunk / crank / lever / knob / shaft / pattern / a design / shape / body build / figure / physique / essential qualities / one's character / personality / temperament / nature / appropriate to / fitting of / suitable for / (archaism) trunk, stem, stalk / shaft (of an arrow) / hilt (of a sword) / haft (of a dagger) / handgrip / counter for items with shafts

Chinese Pinyin: quánbǐng

Chinese Meaning: authority / power

Parts:

quán - authority / power / right (to do something) / inherent rights / jurisdiction / influence / weigh (the significance, etc.) / assess / expedient way / alternative / expediency / temporary / for the time being
bǐng - handle or shaft (of an axe, ladle, knife, etc.) / lever / knob / stem (of a flower, leaf, fruit, etc.) / a stalk / authority / something that affords an advantage to an opponent / information used to ridicule or attack somebody / counter for knives or blades

履歴/歴

November 14, 2013

Japanese Romaji: rireki

Japanese Meaning: personal history / one's background / one's career / one's past record / (computer) log / a history

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 記錄 (jìlù) for "log"

Parts:

ri(ha, ba, kutsu) - put on (the feet) / shoes / boots / footgear / footwear

reki(he, rekki) - continuation / passage of time / past / curriculum / take place / history of / experience of

Chinese Pinyin: lǚlì

Chinese Meaning: curriculum vitae / résumé / resume / career information / career / one's personal history or background (usually confined to past working experience)

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 履歴書 (rirekisho) for "C.V.", "résumé", etc.

Parts:

lǚ - shoe / footwear / footstep / walk on / to tread on / step on / carry out / perform / go through

lì - to pass through / all / each / every / successive / all preceding / all previous / past / history / to experience / to undergo / take place / go through / one by one / one after another

*Note: another variant of the second character is 歷

实践/實踐

November 15, 2013

Japanese Romaji: jissen

Japanese Meaning: practice / practise / put into practice / put into practise

Parts:

jitsu(makoto, mi, mino, sane, jichi) - reality / truth / sincerity / honesty / fidelity / integrity / faith / confidence / devotion / trust / reliance / kindness / (good) result / fruit / nut / seed / stone / pit / (in broth) pieces of meat, vegetable, etc. / content / substance / essence / ingredients / core / tongue (piece of wood used to connect two boards)

sen(fu) - carry through / practice / step on / trample / tread

Chinese Pinyin: shíjiàn

Chinese Meaning: to practice / to put into practice / to fulfill

Parts:

shí - real / true / factual / sincere / honest / fulfilled / really / solid / concrete / substantial / tangible / fruit / seed / definitely

jiàn - to fulfill (a promise) / act on / carry out / to tread upon / to trample / to walk on

貞潔

November 16, 2013

Japanese Romaji: teiketsu

Japanese Meaning: chastity / purity

Parts:

tei(te, jou, sada) - chastity / righteousness / upright / constancy / firm adherence to one's principles

ketsu(isagiyo) - clean / pure / undefiled / righteous / gallant

Chinese Pinyin: zhēnjié

Chinese Meaning: chastity

Parts:

zhēn - chaste / virtuous / pure / virgin / loyal / faithful / incorruptible

jié - clean / pure / purify / spotless / stainless / immaculate

*Note: a variant of the second character is 潔

撤退

November 16, 2013

Japanese Romaji: tetta

Japanese Meaning: retreat / withdrawal / evacuation / revocation / repeal / pullout

Parts:

tetsu - withdraw / disarm / dismantle / remove / exclude / reject

tai(shirizo, do, no, hi) - resign / retire / retreat / withdraw / expel / reject / repel

Chinese Pinyin: chètù

Chinese Meaning: to retreat / to withdraw / to pull out

Parts:

chè - to withdraw / retreat / pull out / to remove / to take away / clear away / transfer / omit

tù - to retreat / to decline / to move back / to recede / to withdraw / step back / quit / retire / bow out /
give back / refund / return / cancel / retract

租税/税

November 17, 2013

Japanese Romaji: sozei

Japanese Meaning: taxes / taxation

Parts:

so - borrowing / crop tax / tariff

zei - tax / duty

Chinese Pinyin: zūshuì

Chinese Meaning: taxation / in former times, especially land tax

Parts:

zū - to hire / to rent / to charter / to rent out / to lease out / let / rent / rental / land tax / taxes / tax

shuì - taxes / duties / duty / revenue / tax

*Note: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

駄馬/駄

November 17, 2013

Japanese Romaji: daba

Japanese Meaning: packhorse / workhorse / hack

Parts:

da(ta) - burdensome / horse load / pack horse / send by horse / poor / low-grade / trivial / insignificant / worthless

ba(uma, ma) - horse / promoted bishop (shogi) / a sawhorse

Chinese Pinyin: tuómǎ

Chinese Meaning: pack horse

Parts:

tuó(duò) - to carry on one's back / carry on back / load carried by a pack animal

mǎ - horse / horse or cavalry piece in Chinese chess / knight in Western chess / (abbreviation) Malaysia

*Note: another variant of the first character is 馱

廢墟/廢

November 18, 2013

Japanese Romaji: haikyo

Japanese Meaning: ruins / abandoned building / remains

Parts:

hai(suta, pai) - abandon / discarding / abolish / cessation /obsolete

kyo - ruins

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word can be alternatively written as 廃虚

Chinese Pinyin: fèixū

Chinese Meaning: ruins (of a city, castle, etc.)

Parts:

fèi - to abolish / to abandon / to abrogate / to discard / terminate / to depose / give up / to oust / to cripple / crippled / useless / invalid / disabled / abandoned / waste / deserted / dispirited

xū - mound / ruins / wasteland / ghost town / grave / high mound / hilly countryside / country fair or market / village / hamlet

*Note 2: another variant of the first character is 廢

即興

November 19, 2013

Japanese Romaji: sokkyou

Japanese Meaning: improvisation / impromptu / off the cuff / without a score

Parts:

soku(sunawa, tsu) - adapt / agree / conform / instant / instantly / immediately / at once / as is / that is to say / namely

kyou(oko, kou) - interest (in) / pleasure / entertain / entertainment / retrieve / revive / implicit comparison (style of the Shi Jing)

Chinese Pinyin: jíxìng

Chinese Meaning: improvisation (in the arts) / impromptu / extemporaneous

Parts:

jí - prompt / promptly / quickly / immediately / at once / at present / even if / prompted (by the occasion) / namely / that is / i.e. / to approach / to come into contact / to assume (office) / to draw near
xìng(xīng) - feeling or desire to do something / interest in something / excitement / enthusiasm / eagerness / willingness / to launch / to promote / to rise / to flourish / thrive / prosper / to become popular / fashionable / to start / to encourage / to get up / arise / cheerful / happy / gay / merry / hot / warm / (often used in the negative) to permit or allow / maybe

*Note: 2 variants of the first character are 卽 and 卽 A variant of the second character is 興

淑女

November 20, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shukujo

Japanese Meaning: lady

Parts:

shuku(shito) - gentle / graceful / pure

jo(onna, me, nyo, nyuu) - female / woman / girl / daughter

Chinese Pinyin: shūnǚ

Chinese Meaning: lady / a fair maiden / wise and virtuous woman (possibly sarcastic or sneering)

Parts:

shū(shú) - (of a woman) fair / warm and virtuous / pretty / good / pure / charming / refined / noble

nǚ(rǚ) - female / woman / girl / daughter / maiden / lady / feminine

*Note: the second character is also a variant of 汝

拘留

November 21, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kouryuu

Japanese Meaning: hold a person in custody / detention

Parts:

kou(kaka, kakawa, koda) - arrest / seize / adhere to / concerned / despite

ryuu(to, todo, ru) - detain / fasten / halt / stop / to remain

Chinese Pinyin: jūliú

Chinese Meaning: to keep somebody in custody / to detain (a prisoner) / detention

Parts:

jū - to capture / to restrain / to constrain / seize / detain / arrest / apprehend / to adhere rigidly to (conventions, etc.) / inflexible / confined / restricted / not free / restrained

liú - detain / halt / stop / to remain / to retain / to stay / to leave (a message, etc.) / to keep / to preserve / to reserve / to set aside / leave behind / bequeath / accept / take / ask somebody to stay / keep somebody from leaving / pay attention to / concentrate on / study abroad / study overseas

*Note: 3 variants of the second character are 留 溜 雷

特殊

November 22, 2013

Japanese Romaji: tokushu

Japanese Meaning: special / particular / peculiar / unique

Parts:

toku - special

shu(koto, ke, ju) - especially / exceptionally / particularly / unusual / extraordinary / (archaism)

difference (from one another) / different thing / other

Chinese Pinyin: tèshū

Chinese Meaning: special / particular / unusual / extraordinary

Parts:

tè - special / unique / distinguished / peculiar / particular / especially / unusual / outstanding / extraordinary / exclusive / only / just / merely / very / bull / ox

shū - different / unique / special / unusual / strange / very much / extremely / outstanding / remarkable / distinguished / (classical) to behead / to die / to cut off / sever / to separate / to surpass

*Note: this word is more formal than 特別 (tokubetsu / tèbié)

硫酸

November 23, 2013

Japanese Romaji: ryuusan

Japanese Meaning: sulfuric acid (H₂SO₄) / sulphuric acid

Parts:

ryuu(i) - sulphur / sulfur

san(su) - acid / sour / sourness / sour taste / tart / bitterness

Chinese Pinyin: liúsuān

Chinese Meaning: sulfuric acid (H₂SO₄) / sulphuric acid / sulphate

Parts:

liú - sulphur / sulfur

suān - sour / acid / tart / sore / ache / aching / tingle / stiff / spoiled / stale / sad / grieved / sorrowful /
jealous / envious / stingy

*Note: a variant of the second character is 痠

結晶

November 23, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kesshou

Japanese Meaning: crystal / crystallization / crystallisation / manifestation / fruit (of labour, love, sweat, etc.)

Parts:

ketsu(i, musu, yu, kechi) - join / bind / tie / fasten / do up hair / contract / organize

shou - clear / crystal / sparkle

Chinese Pinyin: jiéjīng

Chinese Meaning: crystal / crystallization / crystallisation / crystallize / crystalline / fruit (of labour, love, sweat, etc.)

Parts:

jié(jiē) - join / bind / tie / bond / connect / unite / knot / weave / sturdy / tough / strong / durable / congeal / form / found / constitute / to bear fruit / form (seed) / to produce / firm / solid / pay / settle (account, etc.) / to check out (of a hotel) / result / node / stutter / stammer

jīng - crystal / quartz / clear / bright / radiant / glittering / sparkling / coruscating

総督/總

November 24, 2013

Japanese Romaji: soutoku

Japanese Meaning: governor-general / governor / viceroy

Parts:

sou(su, sube, fusa) - all / full / general / total / whole / gross / tuft / tassel / bunch (of grapes, etc.) / section (of an orange, etc.)

toku - command / lead / supervise / coach / urge

Chinese Pinyin: zǒngdū

Chinese Meaning: governor-general / governor / viceroy / person in charge of a foreign possession or territory

Parts:

zǒng - total / all / overall / altogether / complete / head / chief / principal / general / central / always / to assemble / gather / collect / unite / in every case / at any rate / in any event / anyway / after all / sooner or later

dū - supervise / to direct / oversee / superintend / reprove / censure / marshal / a general / viceroy / governor-general / army title (archaic)

*Note: 3 other variants of the first character are 摠總總

某月

November 24, 2013

Japanese Romaji: bougetsu

Japanese Meaning: a certain month

Parts:

bou(gashi, nanigashi, sore) - a certain / one / so-and-so / that person / certain person / certain amount / Mr. So-and-so / I (personal pronoun)

getsu(gatsu, tsuki, dzuki) - moon / month / (used to form names of months) / the lunar cycle / Monday

Chinese Pinyin: mǒuyuè

Chinese Meaning: a certain month

Parts:

mǒu - certain thing or person / some / a certain / somebody or something indefinite / such-and-such / formerly used in place of “I” / can be preceded by surname

yuè - moon / month / (used to form names of months)

*Note 1: in Chinese, this word appears in compounds such as 某年某月 (mǒunián mǒuyuè; some year some month) or 某月某日 (mǒuyuè mǒurì; some month some day)

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 𠂇

蝸牛

November 25, 2013

Japanese Romaji: katatsumuri / kagyuu

Japanese Meaning: snail / (abbreviation) cochlea

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 耳蝸 (ěrwō) for the meaning of “cochlea”

Parts:

ka - snail

gyuu(ushi) - cow / bull / ox / oxen / cattle / beef

*Note: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as カタツムリ (katatsumuri) for the meaning of “snail”. An alternative word for snail is でんでん虫 (dendenmushi). The “kagyuu” reading is more often used to mean “cochlea”.

Chinese Pinyin: wōniú / guāniú

Chinese Meaning: snail

Parts:

wō(guā) - snail

niú - cow / bull / ox / cattle / stubborn / headstrong (person) / arrogant / (slang) (expletive) awesome

勾玉

November 26, 2013

Japanese Romaji: magatama

Japanese Meaning: magatama (Japanese comma-shaped jewels / curved beads)

Parts:

maga(kou) - be bent / slope / capture

tama(dama, gyoku) - ball / sphere / globe / orb / bead (of sweat, dew, etc.) / drop / droplet / ball (in sports) / pile (of noodles, etc.) / bullet / bulb (e.g. light bulb) / lens (of glasses, etc.) / bead (of an abacus) / (slang) testicle / gem / jewel (spherical, sometimes used figuratively) / pearl / female entertainer (e.g. geisha) / (derogatory) person's character / item, funds or person used as part of a plot / (chicken's) egg (sometimes especially as a sushi topping) / coin / precious / beautiful / excellent / precious stone (especially jade) / stock or security being traded / product being bought or sold / position (in finance, the amount of a security either owned or owed by an investor or dealer) / king (shogi) / time charge for a geisha

Chinese Pinyin: gōuyù

Chinese Meaning: magatama (Japanese comma-shaped jewels / curved beads)

Parts:

gōu(gòu) - to attract / to arouse / entice / evoke / induce / remind / awaken / to tick off / to strike out / to cross out / to check / to delineate / trace out / sketch / to collude / gang up with / hook / to join / to connect / affair / deal / business / to reach for (with hand)

yù - jade / precious stone / gem / pure (woman) / fair / beautiful / graceful / slender / elegant / polite expression for "your"

*Note: a variant of the first character is 勾 The first character is also a variant of 鉤

宮崎

November 27, 2013

Japanese Romaji: miyazaki

Japanese Meaning: Miyazaki (Japanese city, prefecture, and surname)

Parts:

miya(kyuu, kuu, guu) - palace / Shinto shrine / imperial residence / member of the imperial family / princess / constellations / zodiacal sign / tonic (of the Japanese & Chinese pentatonic scale) / ancient Chinese punishment (castration for men, or confinement for women)

zaki(saki, misaki, ki) - cape (on coast) / promontory / spit / small peninsula

Chinese Pinyin: gōngqí

Chinese Meaning: Miyazaki (Japanese city, prefecture, and surname)

Parts:

gōng - palace / temple / dwelling / an enclose / castration (as corporal punishment) / first note in pentatonic scale

qí - mountainous / rough / uneven / jagged / rugged / sloping

*Note: 3 variants of the second character are 崎 嵒 嵒 with the first one being a separate commonly used character

灼熱

November 28, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shakunetsu

Japanese Meaning: red hot / scorching heat / incandescence / passionate / burning passion

Parts:

shaku(ya, ara) - miraculous / burn

netsu(atsu) - hot (of weather) / heat / temperature / fever / zeal / passion / enthusiasm / mania / craze / rage

Chinese Pinyin: zhuórè

Chinese Meaning: red-hot / burning hot / intense heat / scorching / worried

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 心配 (shinpai) for the meaning of “worried”

Parts:

zhuó - luminous / bright / shining / burning / to burn / broil / scorch / cauterize / clear / obvious / indisputable / (Cantonese) cook by soaking in boiling water

rè - hot (of weather) / heat / heated / burning / fervent / fever / to warm up / to heat up / restless / zeal / zealous / passionate / earnest / ardent / enthusiastic

旅館

November 29, 2013

Japanese Romaji: ryokan

Japanese Meaning: ryokan (Japanese-style hotel) / inn / hotel

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 日式旅館 (rishi lǚguǎn) for the Japanese-style “ryokan”

Parts:

ryo(tabi) - travel / trip / journey / 500-man battalion (Zhou-dynasty Chinese army)

kan(tate, date, tachi, yakata) - building / house / hall / large building / section of a building / mansion / palace / small castle / boat cabin / (honorific) nobleman / noblewoman

Chinese Pinyin: lǚguǎn

Chinese Meaning: a hotel / a hostel / an inn

Parts:

lǚ - travel / trip / journey / lodge / traveller / traveler / passenger / lodger / multitude / people / disciples / pupils / followers / subordinates / order / sequence / arrange / brigade / troops (military) / sacrifice to the mountains / proceed together / do things together

guǎn - building / public building for accommodation: guesthouse, hostel, inn, etc. / public building for cultural activities: indoor stadium, museum, libraries, etc. / public building for certain services: teahouse, photo shop, publishing house, theatre, etc. / shop / private mansion / official residence / term for certain service establishments / embassy / consulate / legation / (archaism) schoolroom / private school

*Note 1: for hotels in general, more common terms are 酒店 (jiǔdiàn) in Chinese and ホテル (hoteru) in Japanese.

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 旅 A variant of the second character is 館

微醺

November 30, 2013

Japanese Romaji: bikun

Japanese Meaning: slight intoxication / tipsy

Parts:

bi(kasu) - minuteness / insignificance / delicate / one millionth

kun - hunger

Chinese Pinyin: wēixūn

Chinese Meaning: tipsy / slight intoxication

Parts:

wēi(wéi) - minute / tiny / miniature / small / slight / little / trifling / insignificant / trivial / humble /
profound / abstruse / subtle / slightly / a little bit / to decline / dwindle / deteriorate / micro- (prefix) /
one millionth part of

xūn - helplessly intoxicated / get drunk / tipsy

船舶

November 30, 2013

Japanese Romaji: senpaku

Japanese Meaning: ship / a vessel / shipping

Parts:

sen(funa, fune, bune) - boat / ship / vessel / watercraft / steamship / tank / tub / vat / trough / counter
for boat-shaped containers

paku(haku) - ship / liner

Chinese Pinyin: chuánbó

Chinese Meaning: ships / vessels / boats / crafts / shipping

Parts:

chuán - boat / ship / vessel / craft

bó - sea-going vessels / ship / large, ocean-going vessel or ship / big boat

*Note: a variant of the first character is 船公

店舖/舗/舗

December 1, 2013

Japanese Romaji: tenpo

Japanese Meaning: a shop / a store

Parts:

ten(tana, mise) - shop / store / establishment / commercial building / merchant's home / rented home

po(ho) - shop / store / counter for folded maps, folded texts, etc.

*Note 1: in Japanese, 老舗 ("shop of long standing" or "veteran") has the reading of "shinise"

Chinese Pinyin1: diànpù

Chinese Meaning: a shop / a store

Parts:

diàn - shop / store / commercial establishment / inn / hotel

pù - store / shop (grocer's, barber's, etc.) / plank bed / board bed / variant of 鋪 (when used to mean "store" with the same reading)

Chinese Pinyin2: diànpù

Chinese Meaning: a shop / a store

Parts:

diàn - shop / store / commercial establishment / inn / hotel

pù(pū) - shop (grocer's, barber's, etc.) / store / place to sleep / plank bed / (old) relay station / to spread out / extend / unfold / to pave / to lay out / to lay in order / cover / tile (the floor) / to display / arrange / to set up / (old) holder for door-knocker

*Note 2: for the second character, the first version is used exclusively in modern Japanese. The second version is a traditional Chinese version of the Japanese version; it is also a variant of the third version in Chinese when using the meaning "shop" and the reading "pù". The third version can be considered a separate character and is the most common form in traditional Chinese; the third version is also used very rarely in some Japanese words. The second and third versions have the same form in simplified Chinese (铺).

*Note 3: another variant of the third version of the second character is 堡 and is used in Chinese place names

枯葉

December 1, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kareha

Japanese Meaning: dry leaves / dead leaf

Parts:

kare(ka, ga, ko) - dry up / wither / die / be seasoned

ha(ba, ji, you) - leaf / blade / fragment / lobe / needle / piece / plane / spear / counter for flat things
(leaves, pieces of paper, etc.) / (archaism) counter for boats

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is also commonly written as 枯れ葉

*Note 2: 紅葉 (autumn leaves) is read as “momiji” or “kouyou”

Chinese Pinyin: kūyè

Chinese Meaning: dried leaf

Parts:

kū - dried up / dried out / withered / decayed / emaciated / skinny / dull / uninteresting

yè - leaf / foliage / leaf-like thing / petal / lobe / page of book / (historical) period / era / epoch

小憩

December 2, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shoukei

Japanese Meaning: a short break or breather / brief recess

Parts:

shou(o, ko, sa, chii, bo,) - little / small / slight / tiny / short / light / young / infant / smallness / small item / narrow / slightly / a bit / slightly less than / just about / somewhat / somehow / minor (sometimes derogatory) / petty / of secondary importance / secondary / sub- / familiar prefix / short month (i.e. having fewer than 31 days) / (abbreviation) elementary school / younger or inferior (of two items or people with the same name) / (archaism) unit of field area (approx. 400 sq. m)
kei(iko, ikoi) - recess / relax / repose / rest

Chinese Pinyin: xiǎoqì

Chinese Meaning: to rest for a bit / to take a breather

Parts:

xiǎo - little / small / tiny / few / young / junior / minor / humble / mean / lowly / insignificant / trivial / unimportant / light / petty
qì - to rest / take rest

*Note: a variant of the second character is 憩

殉職

December 3, 2013

Japanese Romaji: junshoku

Japanese Meaning: dying at one's post / being killed in the line of duty

Parts:

jun - martyrdom / follow by resigning

shoku(shiki, joku, soku) - employment / post / work / agency (government department between a ministry and a bureau under the ritsuryo system)

Chinese Pinyin: xùnzhi

Chinese Meaning: to die in the line of duty / killed while on duty

Parts:

xùn - to die for a cause / be martyr for / to be buried with the dead (usually said of slaves, loyal servants, concubines, etc.)

zhí - office / duty / post / position / profession / vocation / career / official duties / govern / direct / manage / only / particularly / used in place of "I" in documents to a superior

*Note: 2 variants of the first character are 徇 (which also has the variant 徇) and 徇 2 variants of the second character are 戢 and 職

宿縁/縁

December 4, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shukuen

Japanese Meaning: destiny / fate / karma / (Buddhism) causation or inheritance from previous existence

Parts:

shuku(yado, juku) - lodging / lodge / inn / hotel / house / home / dwell / dwelling / home of a servant's parents (or guarantor, etc.) / relay station / post town / be pregnant / constellation / mansion (in Chinese astronomy) / outcasts (those from Kamakura period to the Edo period, common around the Kyoto region)

en(e, enishi, fuchi, buchi, fuchido, heri, beri, yukari, yo, yosuga, nen) - fate / destiny (especially as a mysterious force that binds two people together) / connection / relation / relationship (e.g. between two people) / related to (some place) / bond / link / affinity / family ties / opportunity / chance (to meet someone and start a relationship) / border / (Buddhism) pratyaya (indirect conditions, as opposed to direct causes) / narrow open-air veranda / brink / (surrounding) edge / verge / tip (of) / rim / margin / something to rely on / aid / clue / way / means / someone to rely on / relative / reminder / memento

Chinese Pinyin: sùyuán

Chinese Meaning: predestine relationship / (Buddhism) causation or inheritance from previous existence

Parts:

sù(xiǔ, xiù) - lodge for the night / stay overnight / spend a night / stop / rest / stay overnight / old / former / long-standing / long-running / long time / veteran / experienced / eminent / night / counter for nights / constellation / mansion (in Chinese astronomy)

yuán - fate / destiny / karma / predestined relationship / predestined affinity / linkage / cause / reason / because of / margin / hem / edge / fringe / brink / along / go along / follow

*Note: a variant of the first character is 宿

梅花/梅

December 5, 2013

Japanese Romaji: baika

Japanese Meaning: plum blossoms (ume)

Parts:

bai(ume) - plum / Japanese apricot (Prunus mume) / Chinese plum / lowest (of a three-tier ranking system)

ka(hana, bana, ge, ke, kya) - flower / blossom / bloom / petal / blooming (especially of cherry blossoms) / cherry blossom / ikebana / flower arrangement / (abbreviation) Japanese playing cards / beauty / (the) best (thing, days of one's life, etc.) / essence

*Note 1: 梅雨 (Japanese rainy season) is read as "tsuyu" or "dzuyu". 入梅 (entering the rainy season) is read as "tsuyuiru"

Chinese Pinyin: méihuā

Chinese Meaning: plum blossom / wintersweet / (Cantonese) clubs ♣ (a suit in card games)

Chinese to Japanese Translation: ロウバイ or 蠟梅 (roubai) for "wintersweet", クラブ (kurabu) for ♣

Parts:

méi - plum / plum flower / Japanese apricot (Prunus mume) / prunes

huā - flower / blossom / a flowering plant / fancy pattern / florid / varicolored / fireworks / to spend (money, time, etc.) / expend / prostitute / prostitution / used in smallpox

*Note 2: 3 variants of the first character are 檣 玫 罌 4 variants of the second character are 化 華 荂 薔
The first two of these four are also separate characters.

烏賊

December 6, 2013

Japanese Romaji: ika

Japanese Meaning: cuttlefish / squid

Japanese to Chinese Translation: see note 2

Parts:

karasu(garasu, u, e, o) - crow / raven

zoku - burglar / thief / robber / rebel / traitor / insurgent

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as イカ

Chinese Pinyin: wūzéi

Chinese Meaning: cuttlefish / inkfish

Parts:

wū - crow / raven / rook (bird) / black / dark color / how / what / when / Alas! / sun / (abbreviation)

Ukraine

zéi - thief / burglar / robber / bandit / traitor / evildoer / enemy / wily / deceitful / crafty / sly / cunning / evil / wicked / crooked / furtive / extremely

*Note 2: in Chinese, a more common collective term for squid and cuttlefish is 墨魚 (mòyú). Squid specifically are referred to as 魷魚 (yóuyú). However, these terms are often used interchangeably to mean either.

*Note 3: a variant of the second character is 賤

老婆

December 7, 2013

Japanese Romaji: rouba

Japanese Meaning: old woman

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 老婦人 (lǎofùrén)

Parts:

rou(o, fu) - grow old / old age / old person / old people / the old / the aged

ba(baa, baba, babaa) - old woman / grandma / wet nurse / old maid (undesirable card in the card game of the same name) / (Derogatory)old hag / b**ch

*Note: in Japanese, 老舗 ("shop of long standing" or "veteran") has the reading of "shinise";
海老 ("prawn", "shrimp", or "lobster", etc.) is read as "ebi". The term literally means "old people of the sea".

Chinese Pinyin: lǎopó

Chinese Meaning: (colloquial) wife

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 妻 (tsuma)

Parts:

lǎo - old (of people) / aged / venerable (person) / experienced / of long standing / always / very / all the time / of the past / outdated / (of meat, etc.) tough / overcooked / stringy / stale (food or liquid) / not fresh / the youngest / parents / treat with reverence / dark (color) / prefix used before the surname of a person or a numeral indicating the order of birth of the children in a family or to indicate affection or familiarity / a particle indicating ordinal numbers to designate order of birth / a prefix used in conjunction with the name of several animals considered noxious or unpleasant

pó - grandmother / old woman / matron / mother-in-law / mother of one's husband / crone

丈夫

December 7, 2013

Japanese Romaji: joubu / joufu / masurao

Japanese Meaning: (joubu) healthy / robust / strong / solid / durable / firm / tough / (joufu, masurao) hero / manly person / warrior / gentleman

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 強大 (qiángdà), 堅強 (jiānqiáng), etc. for “strong”; 耐用 (nàiyòng) for “durable”; 男子氣 (nánzǐqì) for “manly”; 英雄 (yīngxióng) for “hero”

Parts:

jou(take, dake) - stature / height / length / measure / all (one has) / everything / only / that's all / limit / merely / just as / magnificence (of a waka poem, etc.) / 10 feet / 3.03 meters (ten shaku) / (honorific suffix) Mr. or Mrs.

bu(otto, sore, tsuma, fu, fuu) - husband / man / wife / spouse / consort

*Note 1: in Japanese, the “masurao” reading can also be written as 益荒男

Chinese Pinyin: zhàngfu / zhàngfū

Chinese Meaning: husband / a man of vigor

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 夫 (otto) for “husband”

Parts:

zhàng - gentleman / man / husband / elder / senior / ten feet / unit of length equal 3.3 meters / to measure / survey (land)

fu(fū, fú) - husband / man / male adult / manual worker / labourer / master / (archaism) conscripted labourer / (classical) this, that, those, he, she, they / (exclamatory final particle) / (initial particle, introduces an opinion, topic, subject)

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 伋

懸崖

December 8, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kengai

Japanese Meaning: an overhanging cliff / a precipice

Parts:

ken(ka, kaka, ga, gaka, ke) - consult / depend / hang / suspend / install / 10%

gai(gake) - cliff / precipice / bluff

Chinese Pinyin: xuányá / xuán'ái

Chinese Meaning: an overhanging cliff / a precipice

Parts:

xuán - to hang / to suspend / hoist / be hung / to worry / feel anxious / be concerned / public
announcement / unresolved / outstanding / baseless / without foundation / far apart / disparate

yá(ái) - precipice / cliff / precipitous / edge of a cliff

*Note: a variant of the second character is 厓

贅肉

December 8, 2013

Japanese Romaji: zeiniku

Japanese Meaning: excess flesh / flab

Parts:

zei - luxury / extravagance

niku(shishi) - meat / flesh / the physical body (as opposed to the spirit) / thickness / ink pad

Chinese Pinyin: zhuìròu

Chinese Meaning: excess flesh / superfluous flesh / unwanted fat / excessive fat / flab / bulge

Parts:

zhuì - superfluous / useless / unnecessary / redundant / cumbersome / burdensome / clumsy / refers to a son-in-law living with wife's family / (of a man) marry into and live with one's wife's family

ròu - meat / flesh / physical / carnal / meat or pulp (of fruit) / meat of animals / flesh and blood / dearest (as owns children) / slow-motion

*Note: a variant of the second character is 𪛗

包含

December 9, 2013

Japanese Romaji: hougan

Japanese Meaning: inclusion / comprehension / implication / encompassing / to include / to comprise / to contain / to implicate

Parts:

hou(kuru, guru, tsutsu, tsutsumi, dzutsu, dzutsumi, bou, pou) - conceal / cover / wrap / pack up
gan(fuku) - include / understand / cherish / bear in mind

Chinese Pinyin: bāohán

Chinese Meaning: to contain / to embody / to include / to comprise

Parts:

bāo - to cover / to wrap / to pack / to hold / to include / contain / surround / encircle / to envelop / to take charge of / to contract (to or for) / to charter / to hire / undertake / guarantee / assure / package / wrapper / container / bag / to hold or embrace / bundle / packet / bun (food) / counter for packages, bundles, sacks, packets, parcels, etc.

hán - to keep / to contain / embody / include / cherish / endure / to bear / to harbour / to harbor / hold in mouth / to suck (keep in your mouth without chewing)

*Note: a variant of the first character is 匋

争覇/爭霸

December 10, 2013

Japanese Romaji: souha

Japanese Meaning: contending for victory / struggling for supremacy / to contend for hegemony

Parts:

sou(araga, araso) - argue / contend / dispute

ha(pa) - champion / leadership / hegemony / supremacy

Chinese Pinyin: zhēngbà

Chinese Meaning: to contend for hegemony / a power struggle / to scramble or strive for supremacy

Parts:

zhēng - to strive for / to vie for / compete for / fight / struggle / contend / to argue / to debate / to dispute / deficient or lacking (topolect) / how or what (literary) / [(Cantonese) owe / be behind with (money, debt) / lack / be short of (resources) / be partial to / side with]

bà - hegemon / tyrant / lord / feudal chief / despot / bully / overlord / to rule by force / to usurp / rule by might rather than right / lord it over / dominate / tyrannize / (in modern advertising) master

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 伯, which is also a separate character.

偵察

December 11, 2013

Japanese Romaji: teisatsu

Japanese Meaning: reconnaissance / reconnoiter / scout out / spy on

Parts:

tei - spy

satsu - judge / guess / presume / surmise / understand / (colloquial) police

Chinese Pinyin: zhēnchá

Chinese Meaning: reconnaissance / reconnoiter / to scout / detection / a scout / to investigate a crime

Parts:

zhēn - to scout / to spy / to detect / investigate / detective / a spy / sleuth / reconnoiter

chá - to examine / to inquire / to observe / to inspect / to investigate / to look into / to survey / to study / scrutinize / scrutinise / notice / obvious / clearly evident

*Note: a variant of the first character is 偵 A variant of the second character is 察

聴衆/聴眾

December 12, 2013

Japanese Romaji: choushuu

Japanese Meaning: audience / hearers / (people in) attendance

Parts:

chou(ki, yuru) - listen / hear / careful inquiry / headstrong / naughty

shuu(shu, su) - masses / multitude / populace / the people / many people / great numbers

Chinese Pinyin: tīngzhòng

Chinese Meaning: audience / listeners

Parts:

tīng(ting) - listen / hear / understand / obey / comply with / heed / to let / to allow / to rule / to sentence / a can (loanword from English "tin") / counter for canned beverages / (Cantonese) await / (Cantonese) tomorrow

zhòng - many / numerous / innumerable / crowd / masses / people / public / multitude / abbreviation for 眾議院 (House of Representatives)

*Note 1: the first version of the second character is common in Japanese and used rarely in Chinese.

*Note 2: another variant of the first character is 聽 2 other variants of the second character are 俦 and 𠂔

水圈/圈

December 13, 2013

Japanese Romaji: suiken

Japanese Meaning: hydrosphere

Parts:

sui(mizu, zui) - water (especially cool, fresh water, e.g. drinking water) / liquid / fluid (especially in an animal tissue) / flood / floodwaters / water offered to sumo wrestlers just prior to a bout / break granted to sumo wrestlers engaged in a prolonged bout / (abbreviation) Wednesday / shaved ice (served with flavored syrup)

ken - sphere / radius / range / circle / (math) category (only in the context of "category theory")

Chinese Pinyin: shuǐquān

Chinese Meaning: the hydrosphere (geology) / the earth's ocean

Parts:

shuǐ - water / liquid / river / juice / beverage / lotion / flood / flood disaster / a general term for seas / additional charges or income / (slang) money / counter for number of washes of clothes

quān(juān, juàn) - circle / ring / loop / to surround / encircle / enclose / mark with a circle / to circle / lap / circuit / counter for loops, orbits, laps of a race, etc. / to confine / to lock up / to pen in / coop up / lock up / (pig) pen / sty / a fold / corral

*Note: a variant of the first character is 𠂇

配送

December 14, 2013

Japanese Romaji: haisou

Japanese Meaning: distribution / delivery

Parts:

hai(kuba, pai, bai) - distribute / exile / rationing / spouse

sou(oku) - send / escort

Chinese Pinyin: pèisòng

Chinese Meaning: distribution / delivery

Parts:

pèi - to join / to fit / to mix / to match / pair / equal / blend / match up / dispense / compound / join in marriage / to mate / marry / a mate / spouse / wife or husband / harmonise with / accompaniment / supporting / distribute / apportion / equip / designate / replace / refill / accessorize / accessorise / have a duplicate / to deserve / qualify / to suit / be worthy of / to make up (a prescription) / exile / banish / deport / expel / send away

sòng - to send / to see somebody off / send off / see someone out / escort / accompany somebody to / drive or take somebody to / to dispatch / to convey / to deliver / to carry / to give (as a present) / to present (with) / lose / waste

*Note: a variant of the second character is 送

業績

December 15, 2013

Japanese Romaji: gyouseki

Japanese Meaning: achievement / performance / results / track record / work / contribution / earnings

Parts:

gyou(waza, gou) - work / business / vocation / occupation / profession / job / trade / a living / what one does to earn a living / task / the job at hand / study / studies / scholarship / deed / act / performance / the arts / a work of great significance or intent / an intentional act or action / a matter or affair (implies a problem) / a technique / a means of doing something / a disaster / misfortune / calamity / a Buddhist memorial service / (Buddhism) karma (i.e. actions committed in a former life) / sin / misdeed

seki - exploits / unreeling cocoons

Chinese Pinyin: yèjì

Chinese Meaning: performance (e.g. company profits) / track record / outstanding achievement / great feat / yield (of investment) / growth / sales

Parts:

yè - work / business / line of business / vocation / industry / occupation / profession / trade / job / employment / calling / study / school studies / estate / property / enterprise / (Buddhism) karma / deed / to engage in / already

jì(jī) - merit / accomplishment / grade / achievements / to spin (hemp) / twist hempen thread

*Note: a variant of the second character is 勳

戦慄/戰

December 16, 2013

Japanese Romaji: senritsu

Japanese Meaning: shudder / shiver / tremble with fear / horrible / terrible / hair-raising

Parts:

sen(ikusa, onono, soyo, tataka, wana, wanana) - battle / fight / war / campaign / match / competition / (archaism) troops, forces / soldier / warrior

ritsu(na) - fear

*Note 1: 戦慄く (to tremble) is read as “wananaku”

Chinese Pinyin: zhàn lì

Chinese Meaning: to tremble / shudder / to shiver (from fear, cold, etc.)

Parts:

zhàn - battle / fight / fighting / war / warfare / match / competition / contest / contend / shudder / shiver / tremble

lì - afraid / trembling / tremble (with fear or cold) / shiver / shudder

*Note 2: in Chinese, this word can alternatively be written as 顫慄

跳躍

December 17, 2013

Japanese Romaji: chouyaku

Japanese Meaning: jump / jumping / leap / skip / bound

Parts:

chou(to, ha) - to hop / to jerk / to buck / leap up / prance / to spring / sputter / snap / splash /

yaku(odo) - leap / skip / dance

*Note: the Japanese verb “tobu” (とぶ) can either mean “to jump” or “to fly” and can be written with kanji as 飛ぶ (to fly) or 跳ぶ (to jump).

Chinese Pinyin: tiàoyuè

Chinese Meaning: to jump / to leap / to bound / to skip / to hop / to prance

Parts:

tiào - to jump / to hop / to skip over / make omissions / to leap / to vault / to spring / to bounce / to palpitate / throb / pulsate / to beat / dance

yuè - to jump / to leap / to skip / frolic / to bound / to spring / to hop

謙遜

December 18, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kenson

Japanese Meaning: humble / humility / modesty

Parts:

ken(herikuda) - be modest / humble oneself / self-effacing / condescend

son(herikuda) - humble / modest

Chinese Pinyin: qiānxùn

Chinese Meaning: humble / modest / unpretentious / humility / modesty

Parts:

qiān - modest / humble / unassuming

xùn - modest / humble / yielding / to yield / unpretentious / inferior to / not as good as / to abdicate /
resign / resigning / surrender / respectful and compliant / obedient

誇張

December 19, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kochou

Japanese Meaning: exaggeration / an overstatement

Parts:

ko(hoko) - boast / pride / be proud / triumphantly

chou(ha, ba) - lengthen / spread / stretch / put up (tent) / counter for bows and stringed instruments

Chinese Pinyin: kuāzhāng

Chinese Meaning: to exaggerate / overstated / exaggerated / exaggeration / vaunted / hyperbole / (colloquial) excessive / extreme / ridiculous

Parts:

kuā - to boast / brag / flaunt / show off / to exaggerate / to praise / big / great

zhāng - lengthen / stretch / extend / expand / to open up / to spread / tense / strained / magnify /

exaggerate / display / set up / show up / sheet of paper / look / counter for flat objects, sheet (paper, ticket, table, etc.) / counter for stretchable objects (bow, mouth, etc.) / counter for votes

開墾

December 20, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kaikon

Japanese Meaning: cultivating new land / bring land under cultivation / (land) reclamation

Parts:

kai(a, hira, bira) - open / unfold / unseal

kon - ground-breaking / open up farmland

Chinese Pinyin: kāikěn

Chinese Meaning: to clear a wild area for cultivation / to put under the plow / to open up wasteland for farming

Parts:

kāi - to open (door, bottle, etc.) / turn on / switch on / to start / initiate / begin / to boil / to write out (a medical prescription, etc.) / make a list of / to operate (vehicle) / to drive / depart / leave / set up / to run / hold (meeting, exhibition, etc.) / aside / apart / away / (Cantonese) verb particle marking habitual aspect

kěn - to cultivate / to reclaim (land) / to farm land / till / plough (land)

裸体/體

December 21, 2013

Japanese Romaji: ratai

Japanese Meaning: naked body / nudity

Parts:

ra(hadaka, padaka) - naked / nude / bare / uncovered / partially clothed

tai(katachi, karada, tei) - body / health / physique / posture / shape / form / style / object / reality /

substance / identity / appearance / air / condition / state / (mathematical) field / counter for humanoid forms (statues, dolls, etc.) / counter for images

*Note 1: 裸足 (barefoot) is read as “hadashi”

Chinese Pinyin: luǒtǐ

Chinese Meaning: naked / nude / nudity / nakedness

Parts:

luǒ - naked / bare / nude / exposed / uncovered / unclad / undress / strip

tǐ - body / shape / form / style / system / fashion / group / class / entity / unit / substance / essence / theory (as opposed to practice)

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 3: 3 variants of the first character are 裸 𦍋 羸 3 other variants of the second character are 軀 骸 體

近郊

December 21, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kinkou

Japanese Meaning: suburbs / outskirts / outlying area

Parts:

kin(chika, djika, kon) - near / nearby / close / early / akin / tantamount

kou - outskirts / rural area / suburbs

Chinese Pinyin: jìnjiāo

Chinese Meaning: suburbs / outskirts

Parts:

jìn - near / close (in space) / close (in time) / nearby / neighboring / neighbouring / immediate / recent / close (in abstract relation) / intimate / closely related / approximately / approach / approximate / approaching

jiāo - outskirts / suburbs / waste land / open spaces

生涯

December 22, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shougai

Japanese Meaning: a life / one's lifetime (i.e. one's existence until death) / all one's life / one's career / a specific period within one's life

Parts:

shou(i, u, uma, o, ki, na, nama, ha, mu, jou, sei, fu) - life / living / birth / genuine / pure / undiluted / raw / uncooked / rare / fresh / natural / unedited / unprocessed / crude / live (not recorded) / inexperienced / unpolished / green / student / unpasteurized (beer) / draft (beer) / draught beer / partially / somewhat / half- / semi- / impudence / sauciness / (colloquialism) unprotected (i.e. not wearing a condom) / area of thick growth (trees, etc.) / (male term) (humble) I, me, myself

gai(hate) - horizon / shore / the end of the land / the end of the visible world

*Note 1: the first character has the most readings out of any other character in Japanese.

Chinese Pinyin: shēngyá

Chinese Meaning: a career / a life / livelihood / life (way in which somebody lives) / period of one's life

Parts:

shēng - live / life / living / lifetime / livelihood / alive / lively / to be born / come into being / come into existence / birth / to grow / breed / bear (something) / give birth / produce / beget / create / give rise to / cause / raw / uncooked / unripe / crude / unskilled / stiff / unfamiliar / strange / unknown / unacquainted / save / untamed / barbarian / uncultured / pupil / student / scholar / practitioner / gentleman / creatures / male role in traditional Chinese opera / Mr. / mister

yá - border / horizon / boundary / margin / limit / shore / bank / water's edge / waterside / riverbank

*Note 2: 2 variants of the second character are 涯 and 厓

解析

December 22, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kaiseki

Japanese Meaning: analysis / analytical study / parsing / parse

Parts:

kai(to, hotsu, hodo, hogu, waka, ge) - answer / solution / key / solve / absolve / explanation / explain / understanding / cancel / minute / notes / undo / unravel / untie

seki - analyze / chop / divide / to tear

Chinese Pinyin: jiěxī

Chinese Meaning: to analyze / to resolve / analysis / analytic

Parts:

jiě(jiè, xiè) - to solve / to explain / to clarify / relieve / dispel / to interpret / explanation / interpretation / elucidate / to understand / see the point / to know / a solution / ideas / views / to divide / to break up / to split / to separate / cut apart / to disperse / a dissection / to dissolve / to melt / to remove / to untie / to loosen / to unfasten / to open / to undo / to emancipate / to transport under guard / send under guard / escort / acrobatic display (especially on horseback) (archaic)

xī - to separate / to divide / to analyze / analysis / dissect / resolve / rip apart / split wood / break apart

*Note: a variant of the first character is 解 The “xiè” reading is also a variant of 懈 and 邂

審議

December 23, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shingi

Japanese Meaning: deliberation / conference

Parts:

shin(tsumabi) - a hearing / judge / trial

gi - consideration / consultation / debate / deliberation / discussion / thought / opinion

Chinese Pinyin: shěnyì

Chinese Meaning: deliberation / pondering / due consideration

Parts:

shěn - to examine / go over / to investigate / cautious / careful / meticulous / carefully / to try (in court) / trial / judge / interrogate / hear (a case) / know / discern / appreciate / really / indeed

yì - to comment on / to discuss / talk over / exchange views on / consult / to suggest / suggestion / opinion / view / proposal

*Note: a variant of the first character is 案

妥協

December 24, 2013

Japanese Romaji: dakyou

Japanese Meaning: compromise / giving in / settlement

Parts:

da - depravity / gentle / peace

kyou - cooperation / co-

Chinese Pinyin: tuǒxié

Chinese Meaning: to compromise / to reach terms / a compromise / come to terms / reconciliation / amity

Parts:

tuǒ - appropriate / satisfactory / suitable / proper / adequate / ready / settled / finished

xié - to cooperate / to harmonize / bring into harmony / be united / coordinate / agree / agreement / to help / to assist / to aid / to join

*Note: 3 variants of the second character are 協 協 叶

餞別

December 25, 2013

Japanese Romaji: senbetsu

Japanese Meaning: a farewell gift / good-bye present / parting gift

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 臨別禮物 (línbié lǐwù)

Parts:

sen(hanamuke) - farewell gift / parting gift / viaticum

betsu (waka, wa) - another / branch off / diverge / extra / fork / separate / difference / different / distinction / specially / particular / exception / not particularly / not specially (used with a negative verb)

Chinese Pinyin: jiànbíe

Chinese Meaning: to give a farewell dinner / to entertain a parting friend with a feast / give a farewell meal for

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 別宴を開く (betsuen o hiraku)

Parts:

jiàn - (hold a) farewell dinner / farewell party / see off / send off / preserves / candies / jam

bié - differentiate / distinguish / difference / distinction / classification / category / group / separate from / part from / to leave / take leave / depart / other / another / alternative / unique / unusual / special / do not / had better not / must not / stop / to pin

*Note: the second character has the same simplified Chinese form as 驚

接吻

December 25, 2013

Japanese Romaji: seppun

Japanese Meaning: kiss / kissing

Parts:

setsu(tsu, ha) - adjoin / contact / piece together / touch

pun(fun) - proboscis

Chinese Pinyin: jiēwěn

Chinese Meaning: to kiss

Parts:

jiē - to receive / to accept / take with the hand / to answer (the phone) / to meet / to welcome
somebody / to connect / to catch / to join / to extend / to continue / graft / to take one's turn on duty /
to take over for somebody / come close to / make contact with / succeed to
wěn - kiss / to kiss / lips / mouth / coinciding / tone of one's speech

*Note: a variant of the first character is 撮 A variant of the second character is 脣

高尚

December 26, 2013

Japanese Romaji: koushou

Japanese Meaning: high / noble / refined / advanced

Parts:

kou(taka, daka) - high / tall / expensive / quantity / amount / volume / number / amount of money /

High (abbreviation of "High School" following a school's name) / (Prefix) high- / maximum / the limit

shou(nao, jou) - esteem / furthermore / still / yet / as always / more / even more / still more / in addition / greater / further

Chinese Pinyin: gāoshàng

Chinese Meaning: noble / exalted / lofty / refined / exquisite / high-class / respectable (of pursuits, entertainment, etc.)

Parts:

gāo - high / tall / lofty / of a high level or degree / elevated / above average / loud / your (honorific)

shàng - to value / to esteem / uphold / still / yet / even / fairly / rather / lofty / noble

*Note: a variant of the first character is 高 A variant of the second character is 尙

莊園/莊庄

December 26, 2013

Japanese Romaji1: shouen / souen

Japanese Meaning: manor / demesne / Shōen (in Medieval Japan)

Parts:

shou(sou, chan) - cottage / inn / villa / feudal manor / counter for games of mah-jong

en(sono) - garden (especially man-made) / park / orchard / plantation / yard / farm / place / location

Japanese Romaji2: shouen

Japanese Meaning: manor / demesne / Shōen (in Medieval Japan)

Parts:

shou(sou) - manor / level

en(sono) - garden (especially man-made) / park / orchard / plantation / yard / farm / place / location

Chinese Pinyin: zhuāngyuán

Chinese Meaning: a manor / feudal land / a villa and park

Parts:

zhuāng - farmstead / village / hamlet / villa / manor house / a large farmhouse / place of business / market / shop / store / bank / banker (in a gambling game) / solemn / dignified / stately / august / sober / gravity / to be grave / holdings of a landlord in Imperial China

yuán - garden / park / orchard / plantation / recreation ground / land used for growing plants / site used for public recreation

*Note 1: the third version of the first character is also a separate character in Japanese, a variant in Chinese, and the simplified Chinese version. In this particular word, the third version is interchangeable with the first version in Japanese.

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 園

檢疫/檢

December 27, 2013

Japanese Romaji: ken'eki

Japanese Meaning: quarantine / medical inspection

Parts:

ken - examination / investigate

eki(yaku) - epidemic

Chinese Pinyin: jiǎnyì

Chinese Meaning: quarantine

Parts:

jiǎn - to check / to examine / to inspect / check up / collate / discuss thoroughly / form / pattern / to exercise restraint / restrict / regulate / book label / sort / gather

yì - epidemic disease / plague / pestilence

肛門

December 28, 2013

Japanese Romaji: koumon

Japanese Meaning: anus

Parts:

kou - anus

mon(kado, to) - gate / branch of learning based on the teachings of a single master / counter for cannons / counter for biological divisions

Chinese Pinyin: gāngmén

Chinese Meaning: anus

Parts:

gāng - anus

mén - gate / door / gateway / doorway / entrance / opening / valve / switch / way to do something / knack / family / clan / house / (religious) sect / school (of thought) / gang / class / category / phylum / division (taxonomy) / the key / turning point / a piece (of artillery) / cannon / gate-keeping / counter for large guns / counter for lessons, subjects, branches of technology

*Note: a variant of the first character is 疝

詰問

December 29, 2013

Japanese Romaji: kitsumon

Japanese Meaning: cross-examination / close questioning / interrogation / demanding an explanation / grill (someone with questions)

Parts:

kitsu(tsu, tsuma, tsume, dzu, dzuma, dzume, naji) - packed / pressed / stuffing / packing / close / blame / rebuke / reprove / end (especially the foot of a bridge) / lowest-ranking guest at tea ceremony / tea master / endgame (especially in shogi or used figuratively) / (abbreviation) sweet eel sauce / (archaism) middle-aged woman / (noun suffix) appointment to a particular workplace / using as the sole ground of judgement (judgment) / (after the -masu stem of a verb) continuing / keep doing for period of time
mon(to, toi, ton) - to ask / problem / question / inquire / query / counter for questions

Chinese Pinyin: jiéwèn

Chinese Meaning: cross-examination / to question closely / to ask questions / to interrogate / to demand an explanation angrily / heckle

Parts:

jié - to investigate / to question / closely question / interrogate / to restrain / to scold / curved / twisted
wèn - to ask (about) / inquire after / interrogate / examine / hold responsible

親睦

December 30, 2013

Japanese Romaji: shinboku

Japanese Meaning: friendship / amity

Parts:

shin(oya, shita) - intimacy / closeness / friendliness / familiarity / close relative / pro- (e.g. pro-American, pro-Japanese) / parents / parent / mother / father / dealer (in cards) / banker / founder / (pet) owner
boku(mutsu) - friendly / harmonious / intimate

Chinese Pinyin: qīnmù

Chinese Meaning: friendly / amicable / to keep up harmonious relations (with somebody)

Parts:

qīn(qìng) - intimate / near to / dear / close to / in person / first-hand / personally / personal / person / self / in favor of / pro- (e.g. pro-American, pro-Chinese) / parent / parents / one's own (flesh and blood) / relative / related / kin / of blood relation / biological / love / marriage / bride / match / to kiss / parents-in-law of one's offspring

mù - friendly / amicable / amiable / harmonious / compatible / peaceful / befriend / be on good terms with

貳仟/貳

December 31, 2013

Japanese Romaji: nisen

Japanese Meaning: two thousand (in legal documents)

Parts:

ni(futa) - second / II / two (in legal documents)

sen - thousand (in legal documents)

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as 貳千 (二千 when using the basic numeral kanji)

Chinese Pinyin: èrqīān

Chinese Meaning: two thousand (in legal documents)

Parts:

èr - two (in legal documents) / to betray

qīān - one thousand (in legal documents) / leader of one thousand men

*Note 2: since the kanji for numerals are very simple to write, alternate kanji are used in legal and financial documents to prevent forgeries. The formal Chinese numbers are called 大寫 (dàxiě) and in order from one to ten (traditional) are: 壹貳參肆伍陸柒捌玖拾 The formal forms of 100 and 1000 are 佰 and 仟 respectively. The formal Japanese numbers are called 大字 (daiji) and used to be identical to the Chinese numbers, but are now simplified to: 壱貳參四五六七八九拾百千

*Note 3: 2 more variants of the first character are 貳貳 A variant of the second character is 阡 This is treated as a separate character with a different meaning in Chinese.

時宜

January 1, 2014

*Note 1: words on orange paper have a new character on the right and the left character being used a second time.

Japanese Romaji: jigi

Japanese Meaning: right time / appropriate time / season's greetings

Parts:

ji(toki, doki, to, do) - hour / o'clock / (specified) time / when... / during... / occasion / moment / a case / a season / a tense / time for - / time of - / -time / (suitable) time to-

gi(yoro) - best regards / good

*Note 2: the second character is uncommonly used in the common phrase 宜しく願います (yoroshiku onegaishimasu).

Chinese Pinyin: shíyí

Chinese Meaning: timely / at the right moment / appropriate to the occasion / opportune / to fit current fashion

Parts:

shí - time / o'clock / fixed time / when / season / era / age / period / epoch / hours / often / frequently / proper and adequate / opportune (moment) / opportunity / timely / seasonable / fashionable / now...now... / sometimes...sometimes...

yí - proper / suitable / right / appropriate / fitting / should / out to / must

*Note 3: a variant of the first character is 晷 2 variants of the second character are 宜 and 宜

篝火

January 2, 2014

*Note 1: words on green paper have a new character on the left and the right character being used a second time.

Japanese Romaji: kagaribi

Japanese Meaning: bonfire / watch fire / fishing fire / cresset / brazier

Parts:

kagari - campfire / fishing fire / beacon basket / iron basket for torches / (abbreviation) bonfire

bi(ka, hi, ho) - fire / flame / blaze / (abbreviation) Tuesday

*Note 2: in Japanese, 火傷 (to burn, to scald) is read as "yakedo".

Chinese Pinyin: gōuhuǒ

Chinese Meaning: bonfire / campfire

Parts:

gōu - bamboo frame for drying clothes / bamboo cage / bamboo basket

huǒ - fire / flame / blaze / fiery / flaming / burn with fire / anger / rage / temper / urgency / urgent / pressing / imminent / ammunition / internal heat (Chinese medicine) / the latent heat in a human body (Chinese medicine) / hot (popular) / a group (people) / (archaism) counter for military units

*Note 3: a variant of the second character is 伙

醤油/醬

January 3, 2014

*Note: words on blue paper have a new character on the left and the right character being used a third (or more) time.

Japanese Romaji: shouyu

Japanese Meaning: soy sauce / soya sauce / shoyu

Parts:

shou(jou, hishio) - a kind of miso / paste similar to miso made from koji mold and salt water / watery mash left over from making soy sauce

yu(abura) - oil / fat

Chinese Pinyin: jiàngyóu

Chinese Meaning: soy sauce / soya sauce / shoyu

Parts:

jiàng - thick paste of fermented soya bean / marinated in soya paste / soyabean sauce / soya / food in the form of a paste / jam / any jam-like or paste-like food / thick sauce

yóu - oil / fat / grease / lard / paints / varnish / lacquer / petroleum / oily / greasy / slippery / to apply tung oil, paint, or varnish / cunning / glib / sly

解剖

January 4, 2014

*Note 1: words on pink paper have a new character on the right and the left character being used a third (or more) time.

Japanese Romaji: kaibou

Japanese Meaning: dissection (of an organism) / autopsy / analysis

Parts:

kai(to, hotsu, hodo, hogu, waka, ge) - answer / solution / key / solve / absolve / explanation / explain / understanding / cancel / minute / notes / undo / unravel / untie

bou - divide

Chinese Pinyin: jiěpōu / jiěpǒu

Chinese Meaning: to dissect (an organism) / anatomy / anatomization / to analyze / analysis

Parts:

jiě(jiè, xiè) - to solve / to explain / to clarify / relieve / dispel / to interpret / explanation / interpretation / elucidate / to understand / see the point / to know / a solution / ideas / views / to divide / to break up / to split / to separate / cut apart / to disperse / a dissection / to dissolve / to melt / to remove / to untie / to loosen / to unfasten / to open / to undo / to emancipate / to transport under guard / send under guard / escort / acrobatic display (especially on horseback) (archaic)

pōu(pǒu) - split in two / slice / dissect / to cut open / rip open / to analyze / analyse / examine

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 解 The “xiè” reading is also a variant of 懈 and 邂

表裏/裡

January 5, 2014

Japanese Romaji: hyouri

Japanese Meaning: two sides / inside and outside / public and private face

Parts:

hyou(ara, arawa, omote, uwa) - surface / face (i.e. visible side of an object) / front (of a building, etc.) / main entrance of a house / front door / obverse side of a coin ("heads") / outer clothing / outside / exterior / appearance / façade / public / official / outside a house / outdoors / street in front of a house / front room / living room / first half (of an inning) / top (of an inning) / cover (attached to a surface, for tatami mats, etc.) / (computer) foreground / chart / list / table (listing information) / diagram

ri(ura) - back / rear / behind (the house) / reverse side / bottom (or another side that is hidden from view) / undersurface / opposite side / wrong side / inside / in / amidst / lining / palm / sole / out of sight / behind the scenes / proof / opposite (of a prediction, common sense, etc.) / inverse (of a hypothesis, etc.) / bottom (of an inning) / last half (of an inning)

Chinese Pinyin: biǎolǐ

Chinese Meaning: in front and behind / both sides (inside and outside) / exterior and interior / the outside and the inside / one's outward show and inner thoughts

Parts:

biǎo - exterior surface / outside / external / apparent / appearance / exteriors / superficial / to show (one's opinion) / to express / manifest / announce / to display / a model / a table (listing information) / a chart / schedule / a form / list / a meter (measuring something) / a gauge / a watch / family relationship via females / relatives on the side of one's mother's sisters or brothers / relatives on the side of one's father's sisters / report to the emperor

lǐ - interior / inside / inner / lining (of a garment) / internal / within / in / at / during / over / suffix used to indicate here, there, where

*Note 1: the two versions of the second character are interchangeable in certain Japanese words and most Chinese words. The first version is more commonly used in Japanese while the second version is more commonly used in Chinese. Both have the simplified Chinese version of 里, which is also a separate Japanese character.

*Note 2: in Chinese, the first character is also the simplified form of 錶 (biǎo, wrist or pocket watch).

螺旋

January 5, 2014

Japanese Romaji: rasen / neji

Japanese Meaning: spiral / screw / helix / (neji) key or spring (of a clock, watch, etc.)

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 發條 (fātiáo) for “spring” (of clocks, etc.)

Parts:

ra(tsubu, nishi) - small, edible, helical fresh-water mollusk / whelk (especially Neptunea and Buccinum spp.) / small spiral-shelled snail (especially a pond snail)

sen(tsumu) - go around / rotation

*Note: in Japanese, the “neji” reading can also be written as: ネジ / 捻子 / 螺子 / 振子

Chinese Pinyin: luóxuán

Chinese Meaning: spiral / screw / helix

Parts:

luó - spiral shell / snail / conch / spiral / whorl

xuán(xuàn) - to revolve / move in orbit / a loop / a circle / spiral / spin / spinning / turning / to whirl / return / come back / immediately / soon / peel / pare / turn something on a lathe / at the time / as soon as / variant of 璇

娛樂/娛樂

January 6, 2014

Japanese Romaji: goraku

Japanese Meaning: pleasure / amusement / recreation / entertainment

Parts:

go - pleasure / recreation

raku(tano, gaku) - enjoyable / comfort / ease / music

Chinese Pinyin: yúlè

Chinese Meaning: to entertain / to amuse / entertainment / recreation / amusement / hobby / fun / joy

Parts:

yú - to amuse / amusing / joyous / happy / delightful / give pleasure to / entertain / pleasure / enjoyment / amusement

lè(yuè) - music / enjoyable / pleasant / agreeable / pleasing / comfortable / comfort / happy / happiness / glad / joy / joyful / joyous / laugh / cheerful / elated / contented / delighted / pleased / to love / be fond of / to delight in

点滴/點

January 7, 2014

Japanese Romaji: tenteki

Japanese Meaning: raindrops / falling drop of water / drop / intravenous drip

Parts:

ten(sa, ta, tsu, tobo, tomo, botsu, bochi) - spot / dot / speck / decimal point / mark (exam) / score / point(s) / grade / counter for goods or items / to light (a fire) / to ignite / to kindle

teki(shizuku, shitata) - drip / drop (of water)

Chinese Pinyin: diǎndī

Chinese Meaning: drops / small amounts / a drip / a little bit / tidbit / titbit / intravenous drip (used to administer drugs)

Parts:

diǎn - drop (of liquid) / stain / spot / dot / speck / decimal point / mark (exam) / score / point(s) / degree / to draw a dot / to check on a list / to choose / to order (food in a restaurant) / a place (with certain characteristics) / snacks / refreshments / o'clock / hours / a little / a bit / small amount / some / instruct / to teach / to touch on briefly / to hint / to make clear / to check / examine / investigate / review / select / pick out / to light (a fire) / to ignite / light up / to kindle / to pour a liquid drop by drop / nod (the head) / to touch / to point at / counter for small indeterminate quantities / counter for items / dot stroke in Chinese characters / (Cantonese) how?

dī - a drop (of water, tears, etc.) / beads (of sweat) / to drip / dripping

*Note: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

凶暴

January 8, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kyoubou

Japanese Meaning: brutal / atrocious / ferocious

Parts:

kyou - bad luck / bad fortune / ill fortune / disaster / evil / wickedness / villain

bou(aba, baku) - outburst / outrage / rave / violence / cruelty / force / fret

Chinese Pinyin: xiōngbào

Chinese Meaning: brutal / fierce / cruel

Parts:

xiōng - vicious / fierce / fear / fearsome / violent / ominous / inauspicious / sinister / unlucky /

unfortunate / famine / evil / bad / sad / culprit / murder / very / excessive / excess

bào(pù) - sudden / violent / cruel / fierce / brutal / tyrannical / to show / to expose / come out / reveal /
to injure / ruin / spoil / corrode / hot-tempered / quick-tempered

*Note 1: this word can also be written as 兇暴 in Chinese or Japanese

*Note 2: the first character is also the simplified Chinese version and a separate variant of 兇 Both characters are sometimes interchangeable.

*Note 3: a variant of the first character is 𪔐

非核

January 9, 2014

Japanese Romaji: hikaku

Japanese Meaning: non-nuclear / anti-nuclear

Parts:

hi(ara) - mistake / fault / error / going poorly / being disadvantageous / being unfavourable / negative / injustice / non- / un- / an- / in-

kaku - core / kernel / pit (of a fruit) / (fruit) stone / nucleus / nuclear / nuclear weaponry

*Note 1: 似非 (sham) is read as “ese”

Chinese Pinyin: fēihé

Chinese Meaning: non-nuclear

Parts:

fēi - mistake / wrong / incorrect / unjustified / injustice / wrongdoing / not / negative / to reproach or blame / censure / criticize / oppose / to not be / be not / non- / un- / in- / (colloquial) to insist on / simply must / unless / have got to

hé - core / kernel / pit (of a fruit) / (fruit) stone / seed / nut / pip / atom / nucleus / nuclear / to examine / to check / to verify

*Note 2: the second character is also the simplified Chinese version of 覈 (which is also a separate character)

化粧/妝

January 10, 2014

Japanese Romaji: keshou / kawai

Japanese Meaning: make-up / makeup / cosmetics

Parts:

ke(ba, fu, ka) - act of making something / -ification (suffix of making something that way) / -ization (suffix) / influence / take the form of / change / enchant / delude

shou(wai, meka) - cosmetics / adorn (one's person)

Chinese Pinyin: huàzhuāng

Chinese Meaning: makeup / make-up / to put on makeup

Parts:

huà(huā) - to make into / to change into / -ification (suffix of making something that way) / -ization (suffix) / to ...-ize / -ise (suffix) / -ify (suffix) / -ate (suffix) / convert / reform / to transform / influence / melt / dissolve / reduce / customs and habits / beg alms / (abbreviation) chemistry 化學 (huàxué)
zhuāng - (of a woman) to adorn oneself / makeup / use make-up / apply makeup / doll up / adornment / dress up / trousseau / dowry / woman's personal adornments / stage makeup and costume / toilet

*Note 1: the first version of the second character is mostly used in Japanese while the second version is mostly used in Chinese. The first version can be considered a rare Chinese version.

*Note 2: the first character is also a variant of 花 Another variant of the second character is 嬖

必須

January 11, 2014

Japanese Romaji: hissu

Japanese Meaning: indispensable / required / essential / a must / necessary / requisite

Parts:

hitsu(kanara) - certain / inevitable / invariably

su(subekara, subeka, shu) - by all means / necessarily / ought

Chinese Pinyin: bìxū

Chinese Meaning: to have to / must / compulsory / necessarily / indispensably

Parts:

bì - surely / most certainly / must / will / necessarily / an emphatic particle

xū - must / to have to / need to / necessary / to wait for / await / moment / whiskers

*Note: in Chinese, the second character has the same simplified form as 鬚 (beard)

愛撫

January 12, 2014

Japanese Romaji: aibu

Japanese Meaning: caress / loving dearly / to pet / fondle

Parts:

ai(ito, mana, me, wai) - love / favorite / affection / before a common noun, expresses a sense of admiration or value: good, genuine / before a noun describing a person, expresses praise or fondness: dear, beloved

bu(na, nade) - to pat / to stroke / smooth down

Chinese Pinyin: àifǔ

Chinese Meaning: to caress / to fondle / to look after (tenderly) / affectionate care / to show tender care for

Parts:

ài - to love / be fond of / to like / be kind to / affection / kindness / benevolence / likes / be apt to / to want (an object, not an activity)

fǔ - to comfort / to console / pacify / soothe / to pat / to stroke / to caress / to touch / nurture / foster / bring up / an old term for province or provincial governor

*Note: a variant of the first character is 𢇛

消耗

January 12, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shoumou

Japanese Meaning: exhaustion (of resources) / consumption / waste / dissipation / wearing out

Parts:

shou(ki, ke) - extinguish / turn off / blow out / neutralize / cancel

mou(kou) - decrease

Chinese Pinyin: xiāohào

Chinese Meaning: to exhaust / to expend / to use up / to consume / depletion

Parts:

xiāo - to disappear / to vanish / to eliminate / extinguish / alleviate / allay / disperse / quench / remove /
die out / melt away / to spend (time) / have to / need / take

hào - to waste / to spend / expend / to consume / to squander / to use up / news / report / (colloquial)
to delay / to dilly-dally

*Note: a variant of the second character is 耗

拒絶/絶

January 13, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kyozensu

Japanese Meaning: refusal / rejection

Parts:

kyo(koba) - decline / refuse / reject / repel

zensu(ta) - sever / cut off / discontinue / abstain / interrupt / suppress / beyond

Chinese Pinyin: jùjué

Chinese Meaning: to refuse / to decline / to reject

Parts:

jù - to resist / to repel / to refuse / to reject / to decline / defend / ward off with hand

jué - sever / to cut / to cut short / break off / terminate / discontinue / cease / renounce / decline /

extinct / to disappear / to vanish / run out of / exhausted / used up / finished / without match / peerless

/ unparalleled / utmost / isolated / get out of circulation / separate / without posterity / heirless /

absolutely / extremely / most / by no means / destroy / leaving with no leeway / making no allowance /

uncompromising / poem of four lines / (slang) cool / awesome

洗淨/淨

January 14, 2014

Japanese Romaji: senjou

Japanese Meaning: washing out / cleaning / laundering / rinsing out / deterge / irrigation

Parts:

sen(ara) - wash / probe / inquire into

jou(kiyo) - clean / cleanse / exorcise / purify / Manchu Dynasty

Chinese Pinyin: xǐjìng

Chinese Meaning: to wash clean

Parts:

xǐ - wash / rinse / clean / cleanse / clear / bathe / purify / develop (a photograph) / baptize / (Cantonese) necessary

jìng - clean / pure / unspoiled / tidy / make clean / cleanse / purify / purifying / cleansing / purge / purging / completely / only / always / nothing but / net (income, exports, etc.) / (opera) painted face role

*Note: another variant of the second character is 淨

撲殺

January 15, 2014

Japanese Romaji: bokusatsu

Japanese Meaning: beat (a person) to death / club someone to death

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 毆殺 (ōushā)

Parts:

boku(nagu) - to beat / to hit / slap / to strike / speak / tell

satsu(aya, koro, goro, so, sai, setsu) - kill / murder / butcher / diminish / reduce / slice off / split / spoil

*Note 1: in Japanese, 殺陣 (staged sword fight) has the reading of “tate”; 相撲 (sumo) has the reading of “sumou” or “zumou”

Chinese Pinyin: pūshā

Chinese Meaning: to kill / to cull

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 殺す (korosu) for “kill” / 殺処分 (satsushobun) for “cull”

Parts:

pū - to pound / to beat / to strike / attack / to throw oneself at / to pounce on / spring at / to devote one's energies / to flap / to flutter / to dab / to pat / put on (powder, etc.) / to bend over / blow on or against (face, nose, etc.)

shā - to kill / to murder / to slaughter / put to death / to fight / to hurt / to weaken / to reduce / to pare off / to clip / to smart (dialect) / deflate / to counteract / (used after a verb) extremely / exceedingly

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 支 A variant of the second character is 煞

土豚

January 16, 2014

Japanese Romaji: tsuchibuta

Japanese Meaning: aardvark

Parts:

tsuchi(do, to) - earth / soil / mud / dirt / the earth (historically, especially as opposed to the heavens) / the ground / the land / low-quality torinoko-gami (containing mud) / (period of) refraining from construction in the direction of the god of the earth (in On'youdou) / Saturday / Turkey (abbreviation)
buta(ton) - pig / pork

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is commonly written as ツチブタ

*Note 2: in Japanese, 海豚 (dolphin) is read as “iruka”; 河豚 (pufferfish) is read as “fugu”

Chinese Pinyin: tǔtún

Chinese Meaning: aardvark

Parts:

tǔ - earth / soil / dirt / ground / dust / clay / items made of earth / land / territory / domain / local / native / indigenous / unsophisticated / unrefined / unenlightened / peasant / rustic / countrified / crude opium / Turkey (abbreviation) / one of the eight ancient musical instruments 八音 / Tu (ethnic group)
tún - suckling pig / small pig / suffle

*Note 3: in Japanese, pigs are commonly known as 豚 (buta) whereas Chinese more commonly calls them 豬 (zhū)

*Note 4: two variants of the second character are 貳 and 貳

收穫/收

January 17, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shuukaku

Japanese Meaning: harvest / crop / ingathering / a yield / the fruits of one's labor / reap

Parts:

shuu(osa) - obtain / income / reap / pay / to store / supply

kaku - to harvest / to reap

Chinese Pinyin: shōuhuò

Chinese Meaning: to harvest / to reap / to gain / crop / harvest / profit / gains / results / fruit (of efforts) / bonus / reward

Parts:

shōu - to receive / to accept (a present, etc.) / take / to collect / to harvest / gather together / draw together / contain / end / come to a close / retrieve / take back / to put away / to restrain / withdraw / to stop / arrest / in care of (in addressing)

huò - to harvest / to reap / cut grain

*Note: in Chinese, this word can also be written as 收穫; the second character has the same simplified form as 獲

挿図/插图

January 18, 2014

Japanese Romaji: souzu

Japanese Meaning: illustration

Parts:

sou(sa, sashi, za, zashi, su, hasa) - insert / graft / put in / wear (sword)

zu(haka, to) - drawing / picture / illustration / diagram / figure / chart / graph / graphic / view / map / sight / scene / plan / unexpected / accidentally

Chinese Pinyin: chātú

Chinese Meaning: illustrations or plates (in a book, magazine, etc.)

Parts:

chā - to insert / stick into / plug in / to plant / pierce / to take part in / to interfere / to interpose / intersperse / cut in / (Cantonese) stab with a knife, etc.

tú - diagram / chart / map / picture / portrait / drawing / a painting / to seek / to pursue / to plan / intention / purpose / aim / to scheme / conspire / to attempt

*Note: another variant of the first character is 挿

碧眼

January 19, 2014

Japanese Romaji: hekigan

Japanese Meaning: blue eyes

Parts:

heki(ao, peki) - blue / green / (abbreviation) green light / black (horse coat color) / immature / unripe / young

gan(manako, me, gen) - eye / eyeball / eyesight / pupil / sight / vision / look / stare / glance / an experience / viewpoint / stitch / texture / weave / ordinal number suffix / somewhat / -ish / (archaism) pupil and (dark) iris of the eye / (archaism) insight, perceptivity, power of observation / (archaism) look, field of vision / (archaism) core, center, centre, essence

Chinese Pinyin: bìyǎn

Chinese Meaning: blue eyes

Parts:

bì - green jade / bluish green / blue / green / jade / verdant / emerald green / jasper / emerald

yǎn - eye / look / glance / ocular / eyelet / small hole / tiny hole / opening / aperture / insight / salient point / crux (of a matter) / trap (in chess) / unaccented beat (in opera) / counter for big hollow things (wells, stoves, pots, springs, etc.) / (Cantonese) counter for needles, nails, lamps, etc. / (Cantonese) eyesight

*Note: the first character is similar to 青 which can mean either blue or green

激怒

January 19, 2014

Japanese Romaji: gekido

Japanese Meaning: rage / indignation / exasperation / wrath / fury

Parts:

geki(hage) - extremely / get excited / incite / violent / enraged / chafe

do(ika, oko, nu) - angry / be offended

Chinese Pinyin: jīnù

Chinese Meaning: to infuriate / to enrage / to anger / to exasperate / to irritate / to provoke

Parts:

jī - to arouse / to incite / to excite / to stimulate / stir up / sharp / strong / fierce / violent / heated / irritate / provoke / madden / quickly / (of water, etc.) surge, swash, dash / (Cantonese) brilliant, great, cool

nù -anger / angry / fury / rage / take offence / passion / flourishing / vigorous / raging / surging

努力

January 20, 2014

Japanese Romaji: doryoku

Japanese Meaning: great effort / exertion / endeavour / endeavor / effort

Parts:

do(tsuto, yume) - diligent / toil / as much as possible / never / by no means

ryoku(chikara, riki) - power / strength / energy / force / might / vigor / vigour / strong / strain / effort /

endeavours / endeavors / exert / exertions / bear up / capability / ability / proficiency / capacity /

faculty / efficacy / effect / authority / influence / good offices / agency / support / help / aid / assistance

/ stress / emphasis / means / resources

Chinese Pinyin: nǔlì

Chinese Meaning: great effort / to strive / to try hard / work hard / endeavour / endeavor / hardworking
/ diligent / industrious

Parts:

nǔ - to exert oneself / to strive / make an effort / to pout / bulge / protrude

lì - power / strength / force / strong / vigor / ability / capability / influence / strain / exert / strenuously /
earnestly / vigorously / do one's best

*Note: a variant of the first character is 倅

桂冠

January 21, 2014

Japanese Romaji: keikan

Japanese Meaning: laurel crown

Parts:

kei(katsura) - cinnamon tree / cassia tree / Japanese Judas tree / sweet osmanthus tree / knight (shogi)

kan(ka, kanmuri, kamu) - crown / diadem / coronet / cap (especially a traditional cap worn with sokutai or ikan clothing) / best / peerless / first / top kanji radical

Chinese Pinyin: guìguān

Chinese Meaning: laurel (as an emblem of victory or distinction) / victory garland (in Greek and western culture) / a garland made of laurel flowers

Parts:

guì - cassia / cinnamon / laurel / bay laurel / osmanthus / sweet osmanthus

guān(guàn) - hat / crown / crest / comb / cap / headgear / hat-shaped thing (like chaplet, cockscomb, etc.) / corona / to put on a hat or cap / to be first / rank first / champion / first place / best / crown with / precede by / to dub

*Note: this word is a contraction of 月桂冠 (gekkeikan / yuèguìguān)

淚腺/淚

January 22, 2014

Japanese Romaji: ruisen

Japanese Meaning: lachrymal gland / tear gland

Parts:

ruì(namida) - tears / tear / lachrymal secretion / sympathy

sen - gland

Chinese Pinyin: làixiàn

Chinese Meaning: lacrimal gland / tear gland

Parts:

lèi - tears / teardrop / weep / cry

xiàn - gland

*Note: the second character (gland) was originally coined in Japan but is now in use in Chinese.

坑道

January 23, 2014

Japanese Romaji: koudou

Japanese Meaning: tunnel / mine shaft / a (mining) gallery / (mine) level / a (mine) drift / a pit / a roadway

Parts:

kou - hole / pit (especially of a mine)

dou(michi, tou) - road / street / way / path / course / district / route / lane / alley / road-way / a pass for local traffic / journey / distance / ways (e.g. a long ways) / the way (of proper conduct, etc.) / one's way / morals / teachings (especially Confucian or Buddhist) / dogma / field (of medicine, etc.) / subject / method / means / a way of doing something / Taoism / modern administrative region of Japan (Hokkaido) / historical administrative region of Japan (Tokaido, Tosando, etc.) / province (Tang-era administrative region of China) / province (modern administrative region of Korea)

Chinese Pinyin: kēngdào

Chinese Meaning: mine shaft / gallery / tunnel / a pit / an underground passage

Parts:

kēng - hole / pit / hollow / tunnel / bury alive / trap / entrap / harry / to defraud / cheat / hoodwink

dào - road / way / direction / path / street / place / truth / morality / reason / skill / method / principle / theory / doctrine / art / craft / to say / to speak / to talk / think / suppose / govern / lead / province (of Korea or Japan) / (administrative district in old China) / counter for long thin things (rivers, roads, cracks, rainbows, etc.), barriers (walls, doors, etc.), questions (in an exam, etc.), commands, proclamation, courses in a meal, steps in a process / Tao or Dao (of Taoism or Daoism)

*Note: 2 variants of the first character are 坑 阬 3 variants of the second character are 道 衛 衢

暫定

January 24, 2014

Japanese Romaji: zantei

Japanese Meaning: tentative / temporary / provisional / interim

Parts:

zan(shibara, shiba) - a while / moment / temporarily / long time

tei(sada, jou) - decide / determine / establish / fix

Chinese Pinyin: zàndìng

Chinese Meaning: temporary arrangement / provisional / tentative

Parts:

zàn(zhàn) - temporary / temporarily / for the time being / for the moment / brief / transitory / of short duration

dìng - to set / to fix / settle / to determine / to decide / definite / sure / surely / certainly / definitely / stable / calm / composed / remain / to order / to book / to subscribe / deposit / downpayment

*Note: a variant of the first character is 暫

緯線

January 25, 2014

Japanese Romaji: isen

Japanese Meaning: parallel (of the earth) / line of latitude (on maps)

Parts:

i(yoko, nuki) - horizontal / latitude / left and right / weft / woof (horizontal thread in weaving)

sen - line (e.g. telephone, of a railroad, of action, etc.) / stripe / stria / wire / track / route / lane / beam /

ray (e.g. X-ray) / outline / contours / form / level / division / position / approach / policy / principle /

impression one gives / air one gives off

*Note 1: in Japanese, 経緯 (particulars of a story) is read as “ikisatsu”

Chinese Pinyin: wěixiàn

Chinese Meaning: line of latitude (on maps) / parallel / woof (horizontal thread in weaving) / weft

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 横糸 (yokoito) for “weft”

Parts:

wěi - latitude / parallels of latitude / woof (horizontal thread in weaving) / weft

xiàn - line (e.g. telephone, of a railroad, of action, etc.) / string / wire / thread / cotton / track / traffic

line/ route / political line / demarcation line / boundary / brink / clue / undercover agent / secret agent /

counter for a ray or thread of (hope)

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 綫

墜落

January 26, 2014

Japanese Romaji: tsuiraku

Japanese Meaning: falling / crashing (from a high place)

Parts:

tsui(o) - crash / fall (down)

raku(o) - to fall / to drop / come down / to leave behind

Chinese Pinyin: zhuìluò

Chinese Meaning: to fall / to drop (from a high place)

Parts:

zhuì - to fall down / to drop / to weight down / to sink / go to ruin / fall (of a person, a state, etc.)

luò(là, lào) - to fall / to drop / (of the sun) to set / (of a tide) to go out / to lower / to decline / descend /

go down / let fall / to wither / to sink / to lag / weaken / to fall behind / to fall onto / fallen / lose / to

rest with / to get / to have / to receive / to write down / put (pen to paper) / whereabouts / settlement

/ village / tribe / settle down / cease / finish / to leave out / to be missing / to leave behind / to forget to

bring / pile / heap / net income / surplus / natural and poised / (Cantonese) deliver / put in / apply

繁茂/繁

January 26, 2014

Japanese Romaji: hanmo

Japanese Meaning: luxuriant growth / thick growth / rankness (of vegetation)

Parts:

han(shige) - complexity / frequency / luxuriant / overgrown / thick / trouble

mo(shige) - be luxuriant / grow thick / thickly growing / overgrown / lush

Chinese Pinyin: fánmào

Chinese Meaning: exuberant / luxuriant / lush and flourishing (vegetation) / rank growth

Parts:

fán - complicated / complex / intricate / difficult / many / numerous / abundant / prolific / in great numbers / traditional form of Chinese characters

mào - luxuriant / thick / lush / exuberant / dense / flourishing / healthy / vigorous / strong / fine / fair / excellent / talented

*Note 1: 繁體 (fántǐ) refers to the traditional way of writing Chinese characters. 簡體(jiǎntǐ) refers to the simplified way of writing them. All of the Chinese characters I write are in traditional form.

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 𣎵

嗅覚/覺

January 27, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kyuukaku

Japanese Meaning: the sense of smell

Parts:

kyuu(ka) - sniff / scent / smell

kaku(obo, sa, sato) - memorize / remember / memory / sense / experience / learn / awake / sober up

Chinese Pinyin: xiùjué

Chinese Meaning: the sense of smell / smell / olfaction / scent

Parts:

xiù - to smell / to sniff / to nose / scent / olfactive

jué(jiào) - feel / feeling / to find that / to sense / senses / thinking / awake / (become) aware / conscious / consciousness / realize / discover / awaken / to wake up from sleep / nap / sleep

*Note: a variant of the first character is 嗅 Another variant of the second character is 覺

褐色

January 28, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kasshoku

Japanese Meaning: brown

Parts:

katsu - brown / woollen kimono / cloth made of dry and rough fiber / poor

shoku(iro, shiki) - color / colour / tint / tinge / hue / shade / facial expression / complexion / appearance / look / sensuality / love / lust / love affair / lover / kind / sort / type / variety / (Buddhism) rupa (form) / visible objects (i.e. color and form) / counter for colors

Chinese Pinyin: hèsè

Chinese Meaning: brown

Parts:

hè(hé) - brown / gray or dark color / dull / dark / coarse hemp cloth / coarse woollen cloth / coarse clothing

sè(shǎi) - color / colour / tint / tinge / hue / shade / facial expression / complexion / appearance / look / beauty / desire for beauty / sensuality / lust / lewdness / sex / carnal pleasure / kind / sort / type / variety / form / body / dice / worldly things

咬傷

January 29, 2014

Japanese Romaji: koushou

Japanese Meaning: a bite (wound)

Parts:

kou(ka) - bite / chew / gnaw / gear with / dash against

shou(ita, kizu, jou) - a cut / gash / bruise / injury / scar / scratch / scrape / wound / chip / crack / nick / flaw / blemish / stain / defect / weakness / weak point / pain / hurt / impair / injure / stain (on one's reputation) / disgrace / dishonor / dishonour / (emotional) hurt / hurt feelings

*Note 1: in Japanese, 火傷 (to burn, to scald) is read as "yakedo".

Chinese Pinyin: yǎoshāng

Chinese Meaning: bite (e.g. snake bite, mosquito bite)

Parts:

yǎo - to bite / to nip / gnaw / snap at / incriminate / implicate / accuse / articulate / pronounce / be nitpicking on words

shāng - to injure / injury / wound / a cut / fall ill from / make sick / grief / to grieve / distressed / impede / impediment / hurt (feelings)

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 齧

操舵

January 30, 2014

Japanese Romaji: souda

Japanese Meaning: steering (of a ship) / steerage

Parts:

sou(ayatsu, misao) - honor / honour / faith / chastity / fidelity / virginity / maneuver / manipulate / operate / steer

da(kaji) - helm / rudder / wheel

Chinese Pinyin: cāoduò

Chinese Meaning: to steer (a vessel) / to hold the rudder / at the helm

Parts:

cāo - to grasp / to hold / to seize / be engaged in / to operate / to manage / to conduct / to take up / to control / to run (something) / to steer / to exercise / to drill (practice) / exercise / gymnastics / to play / to speak (a language or dialect) / conduct / behaviour / integrity

duò - helm / rudder

*Note 1: a variant of the first character is 撻 A variant of the second character is 舵

*Note 2: the first character has an alternate reading in Chinese (cào), which is a swear word.

吉祥

January 31, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kichijou / kisshou

Japanese Meaning: lucky omen / happy / auspicious

Parts:

kichi(yoshi, kitsu) - good luck (especially omikuji fortune-telling result) / good fortune / auspiciousness / joy / congratulations

jou(shou) - auspicious / blessedness / good fortune / good omen / happiness

Chinese Pinyin: jíxiáng

Chinese Meaning: lucky / auspicious / propitious

Parts:

jí - lucky / auspicious / propitious / fortunate / good / giga- (billion) / (Cantonese) vacant, unoccupied, empty

xiáng - auspicious / propitious / lucky / good luck / good omen / happiness

*Note 1: a variant of the second character is 祥

*Note 2: the background contains the character 福 (fuku / fú) meaning “good fortune”. In Chinese tradition, signs with this character are often hung upside down for good luck. This is because the Chinese word for “upside-down” (倒 dào) sounds like the word for “arrive” (到 dào) so hanging “good fortune” upside-down means the arrival of good fortune.

椅子

February 1, 2014

Japanese Romaji: isu

Japanese Meaning: a chair / stool / post / office / position

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 職位 (zhíwèi) for the meaning of “post” or “position”

Parts:

i - chair

su(ko, go, ne, ji, shi, zu, mi) - child / young (animal) / young woman / young geisha / offshoot / interest / new shares / offspring / fruit / nut / seed / an object which has a subservient or derivative role relative to another object / (suffix) (after a noun or -masu stem) -er (often of young women) / smaller or younger version of a bigger object / (in broth) pieces of meat, vegetables, etc. / content / substance / viscount / (honorific) master (founder of a school of thought, esp. Confucius) / philosophy (branch of Chinese literature) / non-Confucian Hundred Schools of Thought writings / first sign of the Chinese zodiac / sign of the rat (zodiac)

*Note: in Japanese, “glass” can be written as ガラス or 硝子 (read as “garasu”). Also, 餃子 (gyoza “dumplings”) is read as “gyouza”.

Chinese Pinyin: yǐzi

Chinese Meaning: a chair

Parts:

yǐ - chair / seat / bench / Idesia polycarpa

zi(zǐ) - son / daughter / child / young (animal) / offspring / newborn / tender / small / sub- / subsidiary / subordinate / being / person / learned or virtuous man / master / fruit / nut / seed / egg / small thing / viscount / master / a designation used in speaking of or to a man in former times / (noun suffix) / a suffix for small objects / first sign of the Chinese zodiac / sign of the rat (zodiac)

余剩/餘剩

February 2, 2014

Japanese Romaji: yojou

Japanese Meaning: surplus / redundant / residue / balance

Parts:

yo(ama, anma) - remainder / surplus / too much / over / more than / other / (archaism) formal or
oratory first person pronoun / I / myself

jou(ama, amatsusa) - besides / surplus

Chinese Pinyin: yúshèng

Chinese Meaning: surplus / remainder / residue

Parts:

yú - remainder / extra / surplus / excess / the rest / remaining / balance / (following numerical value) or
more / in excess of (some number) / complement of a number or figure / odd / residue (math) /
remainder after division / after / I / me

shèng - leftovers / residue / residual / surplus / remains / to remain / to be left over / to have as
remainder

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the first character is also one of the simplified versions of the Chinese
character (the other one is 餘). In Chinese, the Japanese version also exists as a separate traditional
character (余 yú).

*Note 2: another variant of the second character is 贍

隆起

February 2, 2014

Japanese Romaji: ryuuki

Japanese Meaning: a bulge / a protrusion / protuberance / projection / upheaval / rising / tectonic uplift / an elevation

Parts:

ryuu - high / hump / noble / prosperity

ki(o, oko, ta) - get up / rouse / wake up

Chinese Pinyin: lóngqǐ

Chinese Meaning: to rise up / to swell up / to bulge / upheaval

Parts:

lóng(lōng) - grand / magnificent / lofty / prosperous / thriving / booming / plentiful / abundant / to swell / to bulge / swelling / bulging / ample / intense / deep / profound / sound of drums

qǐ - to rise / to raise / to get up / to stand up / go up / to set out / to start / begin / to appear / to launch / to initiate (action) / to draft / to establish / to build / to get (from a depot or counter) / (verb suffix) to start / (before place or time) starting from / to happen / take place / unfold / uncover / counter for occurrences, incidents, legal cases, or unpredictable events (case, instance) / counter for groups (batch, group)

紅蓮

February 3, 2014

Japanese Romaji: guren

Japanese Meaning: crimson / crimson lotus flower / red lotus

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 緋紅色 (fēihóngsè) for the meaning of “crimson”

Parts:

gu(aka, kurenai, beni, momi, ku, kou) - deep red / crimson / scarlet / rouge / lipstick / lip liner / red-containing colour (e.g. brown, pink, orange) / (colloquialism) Red (i.e. communist) / (abbreviation) red light / (abbreviation) red ink (i.e. in finance or proof-reading) / (in) the red / complete / total / perfect / obvious / red silk lining
ren(hasu, hachisu) - lotus / lotus root / sacred lotus (Nelumbo nucifera) / Indian lotus / rose of Sharon (Hibiscus syriacus)

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word can be used to refer to intense flames (colored like a red lotus).

*Note 2: in Japanese, 紅葉 (autumn leaves) is read as “momiji” or “kouyou”

Chinese Pinyin: hónglián

Chinese Meaning: red lotus

Parts:

hóng - red / crimson / vermilion / rosy / blush / flush / redden / eminent / influential (players) / revolutionary / (very) popular / specially favored / favorite / bonus
lián - lotus / water lily / Buddhist paradise / the “clean” land (Buddhism)

*Note 3: this word is also an abbreviation of 紅蓮地獄 (hónglián dìyù / guren jigoku). It literally means “red lotus hell” and is the seventh of the eight cold Narakas in Buddhism. Inhabitants are subject to blizzards which cause cracks in frozen skin leading them to bleed like crimson lotus flowers.

漆器/器

February 4, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shikki

Japanese Meaning: lacquerware

Parts:

shitsu(urushi, shichi, nana) - lacquer / varnish / japan (a type of varnish) / lacquer tree / seven (used in legal documents)

ki(utsuwa) - device / instrument / an implement / set / tool / utensil / receptacle / bowl / vessel / container / ability / capacity / calibre / caliber / talent

Chinese Pinyin: qīqì

Chinese Meaning: lacquerware

Parts:

qī - paint / lacquer / varnish / to paint (furniture, walls, etc.) / lacquer tree / varnish tree / pitch-black

qì - device / tool / utensil / instrument / an implement / piece of apparatus / ware / vessel / receptacle / (medicine) organ / magnanimity / talent / ability / capacity / tolerance / to think highly of (a person)

*Note: a variant of the first character is 漆

音符 ♪ ♫ ♪ ♫

February 5, 2014

Japanese Romaji: onpu

Japanese Meaning: musical note / note symbol / phonetic symbol (including the kanji and kana-doubling symbols, vowel-lengthening symbol, etc.) / part of a kanji for which the role is primarily to represent the pronunciation (as opposed to the meaning)

Parts:

on(oto, ne, in) - noise / sound / report / tone / pitch / pronunciation / note (music) / fame /

Chinese-derived character reading

pu(fu) - a mark / sign / tally / charm / token

Chinese Pinyin: yīnfú

Chinese Meaning: (music) note / phonetic component of a Chinese character / phonetic symbol / phonogram

Parts:

yīn - noise / sound / note (music) / voice / tone / pitch / accent / syllable / pronunciation / timbre / news / information / tidings (correspondence) / reading (phonetic value of a character)

fú - a mark / sign / symbol / omen / talisman / to seal / to correspond to / tally / accord with / conform to / to coincide / written charm / a spell / magic figures / (archaism) credentials / identification tag

羊羹

February 6, 2014

Japanese Romaji: youkan

Japanese Meaning: yōkan (gelatin dessert typically made from red bean paste, agar, and sugar, sold in block form) / sweet bean jelly

Parts:

you(hitsuji) - sheep

kan(atsumono) - hot soup / broth made of fish and vegetables

Chinese Pinyin: yánggēng

Chinese Meaning: yōkan (gelatin dessert typically made from red bean paste, agar, and sugar, sold in block form) / sweet bean jelly

Parts:

yáng - sheep / goat / lamb / antelope

gēng - thick soup / broth / liquid food / (Cantonese) spoon / (Cantonese) spoonful (of sugar, etc.)

*Note: 2 variants of the second character are 羹 and 煨

預言

February 7, 2014

Japanese Romaji: yogen

Japanese Meaning: prophecy / prediction / promise / prognostication

Parts:

yo(azu) - custody / deposit / entrust to / leave with

gen(i, koto, goto, gon) - say / word / remark / statement

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is also commonly written as 予言

Chinese Pinyin: yù yán

Chinese Meaning: to predict / prophecy / prediction / forecast / foretell

Parts:

yù - to advance / in advance / beforehand / previously / to prepare / arrange / make ready / reserve
(funds, troops, etc.) / take part in

yán - to say / to talk / words / speech / speak / to mean / express / language / dialect / tongue / used as
a particle, adverb, etc. in various ancient expressions without meaning

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 豫

追憶

February 8, 2014

Japanese Romaji: tsuioku

Japanese Meaning: recollection / reminiscence / remembrance

Parts:

tsui(o, oi) - chase / pursue / follow / drive away / meanwhile

oku(omo, obo) - recollection / remember / think

Chinese Pinyin: zhuīyì

Chinese Meaning: to recollect / to recall (past times) / to look back / to remember / to call to memory

Parts:

zhuī(duī) - to chase after / run after / pursue / to seek / go after / hunt for / to track / court (a female) / to woo / to do one's utmost to seek or procure something / trace / look into / get to the bottom of / to recall / think back / do something retroactively / expel / to sculpt / to carve / (archaism) musical instrument

yì - to recollect / remember / memory / reflect upon / think of

四隅

February 9, 2014

Japanese Romaji: yosumi

Japanese Meaning: four corners

Parts:

yo(yon, yotsu, shi) - four / fourth

sumi(guu) - corner (e.g., of a room or board surface) / nook / recess

Chinese Pinyin: sìyú

Chinese Meaning: the four corners

Parts:

sì - four / fourth / all around

yú - corner / nook / border / remote place / outlying place

*Note: a variant of the first character is 𠄎

下顎

February 9, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shita'ago / kagaku

Japanese Meaning: lower jaw / underjaw / mandible

Parts:

shita(o, kuda, sa, shimo, moto, ka, ge, he) - down / below / under / bottom / underneath / beneath / low / descend / just after / right after / inferiority / one's inferior / one's junior / younger (e.g. of siblings) / trade-in / give / preliminary / preparatory / lowness (of degree, value, etc.) / second volume (of two) / third volume (of three) / under (being in said condition or environment) / under (influence or guidance) / lower reaches (of a river) / lower part / lower half (of the body, especially the privates) / base / faeces / feces / urine / menses / dirty (e.g. dirty jokes) / end / far from the imperial palace (i.e. far from Kyoto, esp. of western Japan)

ago(agito, gaku) - chin / jaw / gills / branchia / a barb / jaw of a machine

Chinese Pinyin: xià'è

Chinese Meaning: lower jaw / mandible

Parts:

xià - down / downwards / below / lower / under / underneath / beneath / less than / on / into / off / inferior / low / of the bottom part / later / next (week, etc.) / second (of two parts) / upcoming / of a later time / with / descend / to decline / fall down / to go down / come down to / disembark / to get out of / leave off / to bring down / to put down / set down / lower into / apply / put forth / to put in / to arrive at (a decision, conclusion etc.) / lay / to issue (something) / to deliver / to send / to give / formulate / work something out / to begin / to finish / (animal) to give birth / to lay (eggs) / (verb particle indicating space or capacity) / (used after a verb to express height) / (used after a verb to express the separation of an object) / (used after a verb to express the end of an action) / (noun suffix indicating a certain time or season) / (verb measure indicating repetition or duration) / counter to show the frequency of an action

è - jaw / jowl / mandibles / palate

*Note: a variant of the first character is 𪗇

睫毛

February 10, 2014

Japanese Romaji: matsuge

Japanese Meaning: eyelashes

Parts:

matsu(matsuge) - eyelashes

ge(ke, mou) - fur / hair (not on human head) / feather / down / one-thousandth / 0.03 mm

(one-thousandth of a sun) / 0.01 percent (one-thousandth of a wari) / 3.75 milligrams (one-thousandth of a monme) / old monetary unit (0.0001 yen)

*Note: in Japanese, this word can also be written as 睫 or まつ毛

Chinese Pinyin: jiémáo

Chinese Meaning: eyelashes

Parts:

jié - eyelashes

máo - fur / hair (not on human head) / feather / down / wool / mildew / mold / coarse or unfinished / semi-finished / unpolished / gross / untouched / very young / little / raw / vegetation / careless / unthinking / nervous / scared / panic-stricken / flurried / one-thousandth / (of currency) to devalue or depreciate / ten cents / dime / counter for Chinese fractional monetary unit (= 角 , = 1; 10 yuan or 10 fen 分)

印璽

February 11, 2014

Japanese Romaji: inji

Japanese Meaning: imperial seal

Parts:

in(shirushi, shiru, jirushi) - mark / seal / stamp / emblem / symbol / indication / imprint / print / sign / badge / crest / flag / trademark / evidence / proof / souvenir / token (of gratitude, affection, etc.) / (Abbreviation) India / (Buddhism) mudra (symbolic hand gesture)

ji - emperor's seal / imperial seal or sigil / a symbol of imperial status

Chinese Pinyin: yìnxǐ

Chinese Meaning: official seal / imperial or royal seal / papal bull

Parts:

yìn - to print / to mark / to engrave / a seal / a print / a stamp / a mark / imprint / a trace / chop / image / (Abbreviation) India

xǐ - ruler's seal / royal seal / imperial signet / royal signet

*Note: 2 variants of the second character are 璽 and 鈐

貯藏/藏

February 12, 2014

Japanese Romaji: chozou

Japanese Meaning: storage / preservation

Parts:

cho(takuwa, ta) - savings / to store / keep / lay in / wear mustache

zou(kura, gura) - to own / possess / to hide / have / possession / ownership / storehouse / warehouse / cellar / magazine / granary / godown / depository / treasury / elevator

Chinese Pinyin: zhùcáng

Chinese Meaning: to store up / to hoard / (mineral) deposits

Parts:

zhù(zhǔ) - to store / to save / stockpile / hoard / lay aside

cáng(zàng) - to conceal / to hide away / keep out of sight / to harbour / to harbor / hoard / to store / store up / to save / to deposit / put in storage / to collect / storehouse / storing place / depository / reserves / deposits / collection / Buddhist or Taoist scripture / Tibet / Tibetan

*Note: another variant of the second character is 厶

婚姻

February 13, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kon'in

Japanese Meaning: marriage / matrimony

Parts:

kon - marriage

in - marry / matrimony

Chinese Pinyin: hūnyīn

Chinese Meaning: matrimony / wedding / marriage

Parts:

hūn - marriage / get married / wedding / marry / wed / to take a wife

yīn - marriage / marry / marriage connections / relatives by marriage / relation by marriage

*Note: a variant of the second character is 媼

艶福/艶

February 14, 2014

Japanese Romaji: enpuku

Japanese Meaning: success in love / man's good fortune in terms of love

Parts:

en(ade, tsuya, nama) - captivating / charm / charming / fascinating / voluptuous / romance / love / youthfulness / feeling / colorful / color / colour / glaze / glossy / gloss / luster / polish
puku(fuku) - good fortune / blessing / luck / wealth

*Note 1: in Japan, the practice on Valentine's day is for females to give males chocolate. Males return the favor with gifts on White Day.

Chinese Pinyin: yànfú

Chinese Meaning: luck with women / man's good fortune in terms of love

Parts:

yàn - colorful / splendid / gaudy / amorous / beautiful / sexy / voluptuous / romantic / to envy
fú - good fortune / happiness / blessing / bliss / good luck

*Note 2: 2 other variants of the first character are 豔 and 豔 A variant of the second character is 福

夢寐

February 15, 2014

Japanese Romaji: mubi

Japanese Meaning: asleep / dreaming

Parts:

mu(yume) - dream / illusion / vision

bi(ne) - sleep

Chinese Pinyin: mèngmèi

Chinese Meaning: to dream / to sleep

Parts:

mèng - dream / vision / visionary / wishful (thinking)

mèi - to sleep soundly / be asleep / fall asleep

*Note: a variant of the first character is 夢

楕円/橢圓

February 16, 2014

Japanese Romaji: daen

Japanese Meaning: ellipse

Parts:

da(ta) - ellipse

en(mado, maru) - Yen / money / circle / round / ring

Chinese Pinyin: tuǒyuán

Chinese Meaning: oval / ellipse / elliptic / ellipsoid

Parts:

tuǒ - ellipse / elliptical / oval-shaped / tubular

yuán - circle / round / circular / spherical / complete / (of the moon) full / tactful / satisfactory / make plausible / to justify / unit of Chinese currency (Yuán)

*Note: The two versions of the second character are used in their respective countries to denote a unit of the local currency. In China, the yuán is often written with the simpler 元 character. In Japan, the Yen is actually pronounced “en”.

分泌

February 16, 2014

Japanese Romaji: bunpi / bunpitsu

Japanese Meaning: secretion / to secrete

Parts:

bun(wa, fun, pun, bu) - minute / one-tenth / one percent (one-tenth of a wari) / chances / part / segment / a share / ration / rate / degree / one's lot / one's status / relation / duty / kind / lot / in proportion to / just as much as / thickness / advantageous circumstances / know / understand / 3 mm (one-tenth of a sun) / 2.4 mm (one-tenth of a mon, a traditional unit used to measure shoe sizes) / 0.375 grams (one-tenth of a monme) / 0.1 degree (one-tenth of a do, used to measure body temperature on any temperature scale) / one-quarter of a ryou (obsolete unit of currency)
pi(pitsu, hi, hitsu) - secrete / flow / ooze / soak in / penetrate

Chinese Pinyin: fēnmì

Chinese Meaning: secretion / to secrete

Parts:

fēn(fèn) - minute / one-tenth / one percent / one cent / to divide / to separate / to allocate / distribute / assign / allot / to distinguish (between good and bad) / differentiate / tell apart / part / subdivision / fraction / percentage / a point (in sports or games) / mark / score / share / ingredient / component / located separately / branch / one point / unit of length (centimeter), area, weight, money (one cent), interest rate, time (one minute), etc. / unit to express fractions and percentages / unit of length equivalent to 0.33 cm / 0.01 yuan (unit of money)
mì(bì) - to secrete / to excrete / to seep out

*Note: a Chinese variant of the first character is 份

洪水

February 17, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kouzui

Japanese Meaning: flood

Parts:

kou - deluge / flood / vast

zui(mizu, sui) - water (especially cool, fresh water, e.g. drinking water) / liquid / fluid (especially in an animal tissue) / flood / floodwaters / water offered to sumo wrestlers just prior to a bout / break granted to sumo wrestlers engaged in a prolonged bout / (abbreviation) Wednesday / shaved ice (served with flavored syrup)

Chinese Pinyin: hóngshuǐ

Chinese Meaning: flood / deluge

Parts:

hóng - flood / deluge / torrent / big / great / vast / immense / loud / mighty

shuǐ - water / liquid / river / juice / beverage / lotion / flood / flood disaster / a general term for seas / additional charges or income / (slang) money / counter for number of washes of clothes

*Note: a variant of the second character is 氷

空隙

February 18, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kuugeki

Japanese Meaning: a vacant space / aperture / gap / opening / gap between two objects / gap in time between two events

Parts:

kuu(a, uro, kara, su, sora, zora, muna) - sky / the heavens / emptiness / empty / vacant / vacuum / void / blank / hollow / cavity / hole / empty air / (abbreviation) air force / fruitlessness / meaninglessness / ineffectual / false / void (one of the five elements) / Śūnyatā (emptiness, the lack of an immutable intrinsic nature within any phenomenon)

geki(suki, hima, su) - crevice / fissure / gap / space / a break / interlude / interval / leisure / opportunity / chance / chink (in one's armor, armour) / discord / breach (of a relationship between people)

Chinese Pinyin: kòngxì

Chinese Meaning: a vacant space / a crevice / a crack / gap between two objects / gap in time between two events / interval / loophole

Parts:

kòng(kōng) - empty / hollow / bare / deserted / vacant / vacancy / unoccupied / void / space / blank (space) / leave blank or vacant / to empty / exhaust / reduce to extremity / fictitious / unreal / impractical / in vain / vain and useless (efforts, etc.) / ineffective / fruitless / air / sky / leisure / free time / spare time / (Buddhism) Śūnyatā / emptiness / vacuity / awareness / openness / thusness

xì - a crack / crevice / split / fissure / slit / gap or interval (of space or time) / loophole / opportunity / discord / grudge / rift / misunderstanding

*Note: 2 variants of the second character are 隙 and 郤

放屁

February 19, 2014

Japanese Romaji: houhi

Japanese Meaning: breaking wind / fart

Parts:

hou(hana, pana, pi) - banish / to fire / shoot / liberate / release / set free / emit

hi(he, pe, onara) - fart / passing gas / wind

Chinese Pinyin: fàngpì

Chinese Meaning: to fart / to break wind / to talk nonsense / Utter rubbish! / condemn as absolute nonsense / (colloquial) to talk BS

Parts:

fàng - to release / to free / to let go / to liberate / set free / loosen / to let out / dismiss / take leave / to put / to place / to set / lay aside / to set off (fireworks) / let off / send out / distribute / hand out / lend for interest / dissipate / debauch / indulge / send into exile / exile / banish / (of flowers) blossom / come into bloom / enlarge / lengthen / let down / graze / pasture / put out to feed

pì - fart / flatulence / break wind / nonsense / buttocks

漸次

February 20, 2014

Japanese Romaji: zenji

Japanese Meaning: gradually / by degrees / a step at a time / slowly / little by little / incrementally

Parts:

zen(yaya, youya) - steadily / gradually advancing / barely / finally / a little / partially / somewhat / slightly / semi- / -ish / on the ... side / a short time / a while

ji(tsugi, tsu, shi) - the next one / order / sequence / below / following / subsequent / stage / station /

hypo- (i.e. containing an element with low valence) / counter for order, sequence, number of times, etc.

Chinese Pinyin: jiàncì

Chinese Meaning: gradually / little by little / by degrees / one by one

Parts:

jiàn(jiān) - gradual / gradually / little by little / by degrees / soak / be saturated with / to imbue / flow into (sea)

cì - next in sequence / order / sequence / succession / grade / grading / second / the second (day, time, etc.) / secondary / vice- / deputy / sub- / infra- / inferior quality / lower / substandard / second rate / place where one stops for a rest on a trip / place / stop at a place / stopover / at (the table, feast, etc.) / by / in the midst / hypo- (chemistry) / counter for enumerated events (time, occasion, occurrence, etc.)

距離

February 21, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kyori

Japanese Meaning: a distance / a range / an interval

Parts:

kyo(heda, kedzume) - long-distance / spur (botany) / tubular nectary / fetlock (horse, etc.) / spur (chicken, etc.) / cockspur / dewclaw (dog, etc.)

ri(hana, bana) - detach / disjoin / separation / digress / li (one of the trigrams of the I Ching: fire, south, ☲)

*Note: in Japanese, 流離う (to wander) is read as "sasurau"

Chinese Pinyin: jùlí

Chinese Meaning: distance / to be apart from / to be away from

Parts:

jù - at a distance of / distance / a space / division / to be apart / to be away from (in distance or time) / spur (of a bird, cock, pheasant, etc.)

lí - to leave / to part from / to depart from / go away / separate / separation / be separate from / to be away from / distant / from (a distance) / be at a distance from / apart from / be without (something) / be independent of / defy / go against / run into / meet with / act in pair / bright (light) / li (one of the trigrams of the I Ching: fire, south, ☲)

捏造

February 22, 2014

Japanese Romaji: netsuzou

Japanese Meaning: fabrication / forgery / falsehood / hoax / concoction / invent / make up

Parts:

netsu(ko, tsuku, detsu) - knead / mix

zou(tsuku, dzuku) - create / make/ structure /physique

Chinese Pinyin: niēzào

Chinese Meaning: to make up a false set of facts / to fake / to fabricate (evidence, etc.) / to trump up (charges, etc.) / to concoct

Parts:

niē - to pinch (with one's fingers) / pick with fingers / hold with fingers / to knead / to mold / to mould / to make up / fabricate / concoct / cook up (a story, etc.) / bring together / clench

zào - create / to make / to build / construct / invent / manufacture / prepare / begin / crop / harvest / achievement / attainment / accomplishment / go to / arrive at / visit

*Note: a variant of the first character is 捏 A variant of the second character is 艘

頸部/頸

February 23, 2014

Japanese Romaji: keibu

Japanese Meaning: neck (region) / cervix

Parts:

kei(kubi) - neck / head / unemployed person

bu(he, be) - part / portion / component / divide / element / section / division / department (in an organization) / class / bureau / club / category / a copy / counter for copies of a newspaper or magazine / hereditary occupational group (Yamato period)

Chinese Pinyin: jǐngbù

Chinese Meaning: neck (region) / cervix

Parts:

jǐng - neck / throat

bù - part / portion / section / division / department / cabinet ministry / bureau / board / class / sort / genus / troops / volume / complete work / novel / writing / lead / head / district / counter for works of literature, films, machines, etc.

*Note 1: either version of the first character can be used in Japanese

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 𩑦

両肘/兩

February 23, 2014

Japanese Romaji: ryouhiji

Japanese Meaning: both elbows

Parts:

ryou(moro) - both (e.g. both shoulders, etc.) / two / old Japanese coin / ryo (obsolete unit of currency) /

41-42 g (one sixteenth of a kin) / 2 tan (measure of fabric size) / counter for carriages (e.g. in a train)

hiji(chuu) - elbow / arm

Chinese Pinyin: liǎngzhǒu

Chinese Meaning: both elbows

Parts:

liǎng - both / two / pair / couple / both sides / both parties / a couple of / some / a few / ounce / tael, unit of weight equal to 50 grams (modern) or 1/16 of a catty 斤 (archaic) / liang (a unit of weight, equal to 1/10 of jin or 50 gm)

zhǒu - the elbow / pork shoulder / upper part of a leg of pork / help a person shoulder a load

*Note: another variant of the first character is 兩

失踪/蹤

February 24, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shissou

Japanese Meaning: absconding / disappearance / missing

Parts:

shitsu(u, ushina) - error / fault / lose / loss / disadvantage

sou - footprint / remains / clue

Chinese Pinyin: shīzōng

Chinese Meaning: to be missing / to disappear / unaccounted for / to vanish

Parts:

shī - to lose / to miss / to fail / make a mistake / neglect / a mistake / omission / let slip

zōng - footprint / traces / tracks / trail

*Note: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

憎惡/憎惡

February 25, 2014

Japanese Romaji: zou'ō

Japanese Meaning: hatred / hate / detest / loathe / despise

Parts:

zou(niku) - detest / hate

o(a, niku, waru, aku) - bad / evil / foul / wickedness / bad thing / bad person / false / wrong / vice

Chinese Pinyin: zēngwù / zēng'è

Chinese Meaning: to loathe / to hate / to abhor / detest / to abominate / animosity / (zēng'è) to hate evil

Parts:

zēng - to detest / abhor / to hate / hatred / loathe / abominate

wù(è, ě) - bad / evil / wicked / foul / fierce / ferocious / mean / vicious / vice / ugly / disgust / sicken / scorn / coarse / to harm / to hate / detest / dislike / abhor / to loathe / ashamed / to fear / to slander / how / where / oh / ah

*Note: 2 more Chinese variants of the second character are 噁 and 藹

纏足

February 26, 2014

Japanese Romaji: tensoku

Japanese Meaning: foot-binding

Parts:

ten(matsu, mato) - to tie / wrap / follow around / wear / collect

soku(ashi, ta) - foot / leg / gait / pace / means of transportation / bottom structural component (i.e. radical) of a kanji / be sufficient / counter for pairs (of socks, shoes, etc.)

*Note 1: in Japanese, 裸足 (barefoot) is read as “hadashi”; 足袋 (Japanese style socks) is read as “tabi”

Chinese Pinyin: chánzú

Chinese Meaning: foot-binding

Parts:

chán - to wind around / to wrap around / to coil / to tie / to bind / twine / to roll / to tangle / to involve / to bother / to annoy / pester / harass / importune

zú(jù) - foot / leg / attain / to be sufficient / ample / enough / adequate / satisfy / excessive / fully / as much as

*Note 2: another variant of the first character is 纏

哄笑

February 27, 2014

Japanese Romaji: koushou

Japanese Meaning: loud laughter / a loud laugh / a roar of laughter / a guffaw

Parts:

kou - resound / reverberate

shou(e, wara) - laugh

Chinese Pinyin: hōngxào

Chinese Meaning: to roar with laughter / hoots of laughter / guffaw / to break into laughter

Parts:

hōng(hǒng) - roar of laughter (onomatopoeia) / hubbub / to roar (as a crowd) / whoop / shriek / uproarious noise or laughter / to deceive / to coax / beguile / to fool / to cheat / to amuse (a child) / to humour / to handle

xiào - laugh / smile / giggle / snicker / titter / grin / chuckle / ridicule / deride / jeer

*Note 1: the first character is also the simplified Chinese form of 鬨 (and of the variant 鬨)

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 咲, which is a separate character in Japanese

軟膏

February 28, 2014

Japanese Romaji: nankou

Japanese Meaning: ointment / salve

Parts:

nan(yawa) - soft

kou(abura, gou) - ointment / paste / plaster / fat / grease / lard / tallow / oil

Chinese Pinyin: ruǎn'gāo

Chinese Meaning: ointment / paste

Parts:

ruǎn - soft / flexible / pliable / tender / plastic / supple / weak / feeble / effeminate / cowardly / gentle / mild / poor in quality, ability, etc. / easily moved or influenced

gāo(gào) - ointment / paste / cream / grease / fat / oil / fertile / rich / productive / to moisten / to grease / lubricate / to oil / to apply (cream, ointment) / to dip a writing brush in ink

*Note: 2 variants of the first character are 軟 and 𦉰

泥炭

March 1, 2014

Japanese Romaji: deitan

Japanese Meaning: peat

Parts:

dei(doro, nazu) - mud / mire / adhere to / be attached to

tan(sumi, zumi, ta) - coal / charcoal

Chinese Pinyin: nítàn

Chinese Meaning: peat

Parts:

ní(nì) - mud / mire / earth / soil / clay / plaster / paste / pulp / mashed vegetable or fruit / cover with
plaster / putty / bigoted / obstinate / stubborn / restrained

tàn - wood charcoal / coal / carbon / coal-like substance

*Note: a variant of the first character is 坭

嘔吐

March 2, 2014

Japanese Romaji: outo

Japanese Meaning: vomiting

Parts:

ou - vomit / nauseated

to(tsu, dzu, do, ha) - confess / belch / spit / tell (lies) / spit / vomit

Chinese Pinyin: ǒutù

Chinese Meaning: to vomit

Parts:

ǒu - vomit / throw up / puke / annoy / enrage

tù(tǔ) - to say / to utter / tell / pour out / to spit out / blow out / stick out / to put / send out / put forth /
to vomit / to throw up / spew up / cough up / give up unwillingly / disgorge

清廉

March 2, 2014

Japanese Romaji: seiren

Japanese Meaning: honesty / integrity / upright / purity and unselfishness

Parts:

sei(su, kiyo, shi, shou, shin) - cleanse / pure / purify / exorcise / Qing (dynasty of China) / Ch'ing /

Manchu Dynasty

ren(kado, yasu) - charge / grounds / suspicion / account / bargain / cheap / inexpensive / low price /

contented / peaceful / rested / purity / honest / point / reason

Chinese Pinyin: qīnglián

Chinese Meaning: honest / uncorrupted / clean, honest, and capable (officials, etc.) / free from corruption

Parts:

qīng - clear / pure / clean / fresh / just and honest / virtuous / distinct / clarified / explicit / simple / easily understandable / quiet / silent / still / peaceful / to settle or clear up / to clean up or purge / purify / arrange / place in order / brief / scarce / conclude / terminate / repay (debts) / settle / Qing or Ch'ing dynasty of Imperial China

lián - incorruptible / honest / honorable / upright / clean / inexpensive / cheap / low-priced / (archaism) to investigate / side wall of a traditional Chinese house

*Note: a variant of the first character is 清 2 variants of the second character are 廉 and 廉

妊娠

March 3, 2014

Japanese Romaji: ninshin

Japanese Meaning: pregnancy / conception

Parts:

nin - pregnancy

shin - pregnancy / with child

Chinese Pinyin: rènshēn

Chinese Meaning: pregnancy / gestation

Parts:

rèn - pregnant / pregnancy / conceive / be expecting

shēn - be pregnant

*Note: a variant of the first character is 妊

剃刀

March 4, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kamisori

Japanese Meaning: razor

Parts:

kami(su, so, zo, tei) - shave

sori(katana, tou, chi) - knife / single-edged sword (katana) / knife-shaped thing (saber / cutlass / sword / dagger / scalpel / etc.) / a kind of bronze or copper money in ancient China, shaped a bit like a sword

Chinese Pinyin: tìdāo

Chinese Meaning: razor

Parts:

tì - to shave

dāo - knife / blade / single-edged sword / knife-shaped thing (saber / cutlass / sword / etc.) / a type of ancient coin / measure / counter for sets of 100 sheets of paper

*Note 1: the first character is also the simplified Chinese form of 薙

*Note 2: 2 variants of the first character are 髻 and 髻 2 variants of the second character are 釧 and 釧

冗費

March 5, 2014

Japanese Romaji: jouhi

Japanese Meaning: unnecessary expenses

Parts:

jou - superfluous / uselessness

hi(tsui, pi) - cost / expense / fee / consume / spend / waste

Chinese Pinyin: rǒngfèi

Chinese Meaning: unnecessary expenses

Parts:

rǒng - extraneous / redundant / superfluous / excessive / busy schedule

fèi - to cost / to spend / consume / use / expend / expenses / expenditures / fees / dues / charges /
wasteful / waste / use more than needed / consuming too much / expending too much

*Note: a variant of the first character is 冗

拍手

March 6, 2014

Japanese Romaji: hakushu / kashiwade

Japanese Meaning: clapping hands / applause / (kashiwade) clapping one's hands in prayer (at a shrine)

Parts:

haku(paku, hyou, byou, pyou, kashiwa) - clap / beat (music) / mora (rhythmic unit)

shu(ta, te, de, zu) - hand / arm / forepaw / foreleg / handle / worker / help / trouble / care / effort /

means / way / trick / a move / a play / technique / workmanship / handwriting / a kind / a type / a sort / one's hands / one's possession / ability to cope / hand (of cards) / direction

*Note 1: in Japanese, the “kashiwade” reading (clapping hands in prayer) can also be written as 柏手

*Note 2: the reading of 上手い (which has several meanings such as “skillful”, “fortunate”, “delicious”, etc.) is “umai”. (Not to be confused with 上手 (skillful), which is usually read as “jouzu”).

Chinese Pinyin: pāishǒu

Chinese Meaning: to clap one's hands (in applause, in prayer, etc.) / slapping hand

Parts:

pāi - to pat / to clap / to slap / to tap / to strike / to swat / to take (a photo) / to shoot (a film) / beat (music) / rhythm / cable / wire / telegraph / flatter / fawn on / racket (sports) / bat (sports)

shǒu - hand / (formal) to hold / to have in one's hand / convenient / handy / portable / handwritten / personally / skill / skilled person / proficiency / person engaged in certain types of work / person skilled in certain types of work / verb measure for skill or proficiency / noun measure used in firsthand, secondhand, etc. and also for smallest tradable unit (of stocks)

*Note 3: a variant of the second character is 弄

血漿

March 7, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kesshou

Japanese Meaning: blood plasma

Parts:

ketsu(chi, dji) - blood / consanguinity

shou(konzu, zuki) - a drink / (archaism) rice water

Chinese Pinyin: xuèjiāng

Chinese Meaning: blood plasma

Parts:

xuè(xiě) - blood / blood relationship / related by blood / consanguinity / energetic and high-spirited

jiāng(jiàng) - broth / serum / to starch / any thick fluid or liquid / starch paste / plasma

雪豹

March 8, 2014

Japanese Romaji: yukiyou

Japanese Meaning: snow leopard

Parts:

yuki(susu, soso, buki, setsu, sechi) - snow / (figurative) white hair

hyou(pyou) - leopard / panther

*Note 1: In Japanese, this word is more commonly written as ユキヒョウ

*Note 2: in Japanese, 雪崩 (avalanche) has the reading “nadare”; 海豹 (seal [animal]) is read as “azarashi”

Chinese Pinyin: xuěbào

Chinese Meaning: snow leopard

Parts:

xuě - snow / snowfall / to have the appearance of snow / to wipe away, off, or out / to clean / to wash away / erase pain / avenge / wipe away shame / (Cantonese) man made ice and ice products

bào - leopard / panther

純粹/粹

March 9, 2014

Japanese Romaji: junsui

Japanese Meaning: pure / true / genuine / unmixed / selflessness / purity / innocence

Parts:

jun - genuine / purity / pure / innocence / innocent / chaste / naïve / net (profit)

sui(iki) - chic / stylish / style / refined / sophisticated / smart / understanding / sympathetic / purity / elite / essence / pith / choice / the best / cream (of the crop)

Chinese Pinyin: chúncuì

Chinese Meaning: pure / genuine / unadulterated / purely / completely / entirely

Parts:

chún - pure / genuine / simple / unmixed / clean / unadulterated / purely / entirely / completely / skillful / practiced / well-versed

cuì - pure / unmixed / unadulterated / essence / essential quality / select

克服

March 9, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kokufuku

Japanese Meaning: conquest (problem, disease, handicap, etc. e.g. poverty, illness) / overcoming / getting over something / conquering / surmounting / bringing under control / subjugation / victory over
Parts:

koku(ka) - overcome / kindly / skillfully

fuku(puku, buku) - clothing / clothes (especially Western clothes) / admit / obey / discharge / counter for doses of medicine, gulps of tea, drags of a cigarette, puffs of tobacco, etc. / (archaism) mourning clothes / mourning / period of mourning

Chinese Pinyin: kèfú

Chinese Meaning: (try to) overcome (hardships, difficulties, etc.) / to conquer / surmount / get over / to put up with (inconveniences, etc.) / to endure / recover / restrain / control / subdue

Parts:

kè - to be able to / can / to subdue / to overcome / conquer / vanquish / overthrow / to restrain / to control / suppress / gram / gramme / digest / Tibetan unit of land area, about 6 ares

fú(fu, fù) - clothing / clothes / dress / garment / costumes / wear (clothes) / admit / to serve / to bear / to undertake / to convince / obey / concede / be accustomed to / get used to / to acclimatize / to take (medicine) / mourning clothes / to wear mourning clothes / mourning apparel / dose (counter for medicine)

*Note: the first character is also the simplified Chinese version of 剋 and 尅 (which are also variants)

尖塔

March 10, 2014

Japanese Romaji: sentou

Japanese Meaning: spire / steeple / pinnacle / minaret

Parts:

sen(toga, tonga) - be pointed / taper / sharp / edgy / angry / displeased

tou(tatsu) - tower / steeple / spire / turret / pagoda / dagoba / stupa

Chinese Pinyin: jiāntǎ

Chinese Meaning: spire / minaret

Parts:

jiān - point (of needle) / pointed / sharp / tapering / tip / top / shrewd / acute / keen / sharp-eared / sharp-tongued / quick of hearing / best of its kind / pick of the bunch / cream of the crop / advanced / leading / sophisticated / piercing / shrill

tǎ - tower / spire / tall building / minaret / pagoda / stupa

*Note: a variant of the second character is 塔

脆弱

March 11, 2014

Japanese Romaji: zeijaku

Japanese Meaning: fragile / fragility / weak / frail / brittle / delicate / vulnerable

Parts:

zei(moro) - brittle / fragile / susceptible / sentimental / easy to beat

jaku(yowa) - weakness / the weak / frail / weak / little less than / fewer than / under

Chinese Pinyin: cuìruò

Chinese Meaning: fragile / weak / frail / delicate / vulnerable

Parts:

cuì - brittle / fragile / frail / hard but easily broken / crisp / crunchy / clear and loud voice / neat / light / shallow / thin / easy / quick and convenient (operation, etc.)

ruò - weak / feeble / fragile / infirm / delicate/ tender / young / inferior / (following a decimal or fraction) slightly less than

*Note: 2 variants of the first character are 脆 and 粹

拷問

March 12, 2014

Japanese Romaji: goumon

Japanese Meaning: torture / the rack / third degree

Parts:

gou - torture / to beat

mon(to, toi, ton) - to ask / problem / question / inquire / query / counter for questions

Chinese Pinyin: kǎowèn

Chinese Meaning: to extort information, confessions, etc. by means of torture / to question via torture

Parts:

kǎo - to beat / to flog / hit / to examine under torture / torture and interrogate

wèn - to ask (about) / inquire after / interrogate / examine / hold responsible

滋養

March 13, 2014

Japanese Romaji: jiyou

Japanese Meaning: nourishment / nutrition

Parts:

ji - nourishing / be luxuriant / more and more / planting / turbidity

you(yashina) - nurture / foster / bring up / to rear / develop

Chinese Pinyin: zīyǎng

Chinese Meaning: to nourish

Parts:

zī - to grow / to increase / multiply / breed / thrive / to nourish / to cause / give rise to / create / juice / taste / flavor / flavour / to spout / to spurt / burst

yǎng - to raise (animals) / to bring up (children) / to keep (pets) / to rear / to grow (something) / to support / sustain / provide for / to breed / to give birth to / keep (a family) / nourish / cultivate (one's mind) / educate / nurse (a wound or illness) / rest / convalescence / recuperate / foster / adoptive / adopted / oxygen

*Note: 2 variants of the second character are 養 and 養

餡餅

March 14, 2014

Japanese Romaji: anmochi

Japanese Meaning: mochi rice cake with red bean jam filling / mochi rice cake covered in red bean jam

Japanese to Chinese Translation: see Note 1

Parts:

an - red bean paste / red bean jam / anko / Azuki bean paste

mochi(bei, hei, pei) - mochi rice cake (sticky rice cake)

Chinese Pinyin: xiànbǐng

Chinese Meaning: pie / pasty / meat pie / tart / cake

Chinese to Japanese Translation: see Note 1

Parts:

xiàn - filling / stuffing / forcemeat / filling or stuffing for pies, cakes, dumplings, pastries, etc

bǐng - cookie / biscuits / cake / pastry / pancake / round flat cake / rice cake / something in the shape of a cake / anything round and flat (as a disc)

*Note 1: this word means a specific type of food depending on what country you are talking about. It can mean Japanese anmochi (mochi with red bean paste filling), any Chinese pastries with filling, or Western-style pies. The closest cross-translations I can determine for each are:

-Japanese anmochi (紅豆麻糬 “hóngdòu máshǔ” in Chinese)

-Chinese pastries with filling (シヤンピン “shanpin” in Japanese)

-Western-style pies (パイ “pai” in Japanese, commonly as 派 “pài” in Chinese).

*Note 2: the kanji components of this word mean something different in Japanese and Chinese

*Note 3: March 14 is White Day and Pi Day.

*Note 4: a variant of the first character is 饊 A variant of the second character is 餅

腰椎

March 15, 2014

Japanese Romaji: youtsui

Japanese Meaning: lumbar vertebrae (lower backbone) / lumbar vertebra

Parts:

you(koshi, goshi) - hips / waist / loins / back / lower back / the small of the back / lumbar region / body (of hair, noodle, paper, etc.) / resilience / spring / low wainscoting / the skirting of a shoji / the third line of a tanka poem

tsui(shii) - mallet / oak / any beech tree of genus Castanopsis

Chinese Pinyin: yāozhuī

Chinese Meaning: lumbar vertebrae (lower backbone) / lumbar vertebra

Parts:

yāo - waist / lower back / small of the back / midriff / loins / pocket / the middle of something / the waist portion of a region / kidney

zhuī(chuí) - spine / vertebra / hammer / mallet

*Note: a variant of the second character is 柏

豌豆

March 16, 2014

Japanese Romaji: endou

Japanese Meaning: a pea / green peas (Pisum sativum)

Parts:

en - pea

dou(mame, zu, tou) - beans / peas / legume (especially edible legumes or their seeds, such as beans, peas, pulses, etc.) / pulse (legume) / soybean / soya bean / soy (Glycine max) / miniature / tiny / child / midget / (colloquialism) kidney

Chinese Pinyin: wāndòu

Chinese Meaning: a pea / garden peas (Pisum sativum)

Parts:

wān - peas

dòu - bean / peas / bean-shaped / legume / sacrificial vessel / ancient stemmed cup or bowl (for food)

*Note a variant of the second character is 豇

懺悔/悔

March 16, 2014

Japanese Romaji: zange / sange

Japanese Meaning: repentance / confession / penitence

Parts:

zan(san) - repent / regret / confess sins

ge(ku, kuya, kai) - regret / repent

*Note 1: strictly speaking, in religious contexts, the “sange” reading is used in Buddhism while “zange” is used in other religions.

Chinese Pinyin: chàn huǐ

Chinese Meaning: to confess / to repent of one's sin / remorse / repentance / penitent / confession (Buddhism)

Parts:

chàn - regret / repent / feel remorse / confess sins / be penitent

huǐ - to regret / repent / show remorse

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 懺

抹茶

March 17, 2014

Japanese Romaji: matcha

Japanese Meaning: matcha (green tea powder) / Japanese powdered green tea

Parts:

matsu - erase / paint / rub

cha(sa) - tea / tea plant (Camellia sinensis) / tea preparation / making tea / (abbreviation) brown / (archaism) mockery

Chinese Pinyin: mǒchá

Chinese Meaning: green tea powder / Japanese matcha / Japanese powdered green tea

Parts:

mǒ(mā, mò) - to smear / to apply / put on (cream, powder, etc.) / to erase / blot out / obliterate / to wipe (forehead, mouth, etc.) / wipe off / rub / to mop (table, floor, etc.) / slip off / take something off / remove from / counter for wisps of clouds, light-beams, etc. / to daub / to plaster / spread (wall, floor, etc.) / to go around / to skirt / to bypass

chá - tea / tea plant (Camellia sinensis)

*Note: not to be confused with 緑茶 (green tea, ryokucha, lǜchá). Ryokucha / lǜchá refers to tea which contains whole green tea leaves while matcha / mǒchá refers to tea containing green tea leaves which have been processed into a fine powder. Both terms can refer to the drink or the ingredient. Matcha / mǒchá powder is used in traditional Japanese tea ceremonies and is also a flavoring in various foods (snacks, chocolate, desserts, drinks, etc.)

艦艇

March 18, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kantei

Japanese Meaning: naval vessel / military vessel / war fleet / warship / war vessel

Parts:

kan - warship

tei - rowboat / small boat

Chinese Pinyin: jiàntǐng

Chinese Meaning: warship / naval vessel

Parts:

jiàn - warship / naval vessel / man-of-war

tǐng - small boat / light boat / small ship / dugout (boat) / punt (boat) / naval vessel

深淵

March 19, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shin'en

Japanese Meaning: an abyss / ravine / the depths

Parts:

shin(fuka, buka, mi) - deep / close / thick / profound / heighten / intensify / strengthen / beautiful /

august (of grandeur)

en(fuchi) - abyss / deep pool / the depths / edge

Chinese Pinyin: shēnyuān

Chinese Meaning: abyss / a very dangerous place

Parts:

shēn - deep / depth / profound / mysterious / difficult / abstruse / close / intimate / far / very /
extremely / extreme / dark (of color, water, etc.) / late / close

yuān - abyss / deep pool / deep water / gulf / deep / profound / erudite / extensive / surge up / bubble
up / gush forth

*Note: a variant of the first character is 深 Two variants of the second character are 淵 and 淵

灯芯/燈

March 20, 2014

Japanese Romaji: toushin

Japanese Meaning: (lamp) wick

Parts:

tou(akari, dou, tomo, tomoshi, tomoshibi, hi, ho, akashi) - light / lamp / light (as a religious offering) / torch / counter for electric lights / baiting deer with a lighted torch

shin - wick / marrow / staple (for stapler) / (pencil) lead / stuffing / pith / core / heart / center / centre

Chinese Pinyin: dēngxīn

Chinese Meaning: lampwick

Parts:

dēng - light / lamp / lantern / burner / tube / valve

xīn(xìn) - wick / lamp pith / core of an object (wick, fuse, etc.) / pith from rush (juncus effusus)

*Note 1: this word is more commonly written with the second character as 心

*Note 2: both versions of the first character can be used in Japanese and Chinese. The left version is more common in Japanese and used in simplified Chinese. The right version is used in traditional Chinese and in some Japanese words.

八隻

March 21, 2014

Japanese Romaji: hasseki

Japanese Meaning: eight (ships, fish, birds, arrows, etc.)

Japanese to Chinese Translation: see Note 1

Parts:

hachi(ya, yatsu, you) - eight

seki - counter for boats or ships, half of a pair (e.g., half of a folding screen), item carried in a bundle (fish, birds, arrows etc.), vessel

Chinese Pinyin: bāzhī

Chinese Meaning: eight (certain animals, utensils, vessels, etc.)

Chinese to Japanese Translation: see Note 1

Parts:

bā - eight / all around / all sides

zhī - counter for most animals (e.g. birds, cats, dogs, etc.), one of a pair (e.g. hands, legs), some utensils, vessels, containers, small boats, etc. / single / lone / alone / one only

*Note 1: in both Japanese and Chinese, counting things always require the use of a number and a “counter” word suffix. (The technical terms in Chinese are “classifier” or “measure word”). For example, to say “eight” of anything, you need to use the character for “eight” along with an appropriate second character which varies depending on the thing being counted. The closest English equivalents are words like “loaves of”, “sheets of”, “flock of”, etc.

In relation to today’s word, common Japanese counters are 匹 (hiki, biki, piki) for small animals (dogs, cats, fish, insects, lizards, etc.); 羽 (wa) for birds and rabbits; 頭 (tou) for large animals (horses, cattle, elephants, etc.); 個 (ko) for generic small objects; 隻 (seki) for ships.

In Chinese, 匹 (pǐ) is only used to count horses or animals that look like horses (mules, ponies, etc.); 條 (tiáo) is used for long animals (snakes, fish, etc.); 頭 (tóu) is used for domesticated animals (pigs, cattle, etc.); 隻 (zhī) is mostly used for most other animals; 個 (gè) is used for people and many general things; 艘 (sōu) is used for ships.

In Japan, the supposed reason why 羽 is used for rabbits as well as birds is because Buddhist monks were not allowed to eat meat from 4-legged animals, but found rabbit meat to be delicious, so they classified them as birds (which are 2-legged). Their explanation was that rabbit ears were unusable wings and they only touch the ground with two feet while moving. Also, the word for “rabbit” (usagi) is a pun on the words for “cormorant” (u) and “heron” (sagi), two types of birds.

For more counters, see:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_counter_wordhttp://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Chinese_classifiers

*Note 2: the simplified Chinese version of the second character (只) is also a separate character.

*Note 3: a variant of the first character is 八

稻穂/稻穂

March 22, 2014

Japanese Romaji: inaho

Japanese Meaning: ear (head) of rice

Parts:

ina(ine, te, tou) - rice plant

ho(bo, sui) - ear (of plant) / head (of a plant) / crest (wave) / point / tip / scion (in grafting) / cion

Chinese Pinyin: dàosù

Chinese Meaning: the ear or spike of the rice plant / rice plant

Parts:

dào - rice plant / rice (*Oryza sativa*) / rice growing in field / paddy

sù - ear of grain / fruits or grains in a cluster grown at the tip of a stem or stalk / fringe / tassel /

abbreviation for Guangzhou / (Cantonese) candle snuff, candlewick

角錐

March 23, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kakusui

Japanese Meaning: pyramid (geometry)

Parts:

kaku(kado, sumi, tsuno) - angle / corner (e.g. desk, pavement) / edge / square (or cube) / bishop (shogi) / third degree (of the Japanese & Chinese pentatonic scale) / Chinese "horn" constellation (one of the 28 mansions) / jiao (monetary unit of China; one-tenth of a yuan) / antlers / horn / nook / recess
sui(kiri) - pyramid / cone / auger / awl / a drill

Chinese Pinyin: jiǎozhuī

Chinese Meaning: pyramid (geometry)

Parts:

jiǎo(jué) - angle / corner / direction / point / horn of an animal / antler / antenna / feeler / bugle / horn / horn-shaped thing / promontory / cape / a tenth of a dollar / unit of money equal to 0.1 yuan / dime / role (theatre) / character / part / actor / to compete / to contest / contend / wrestle / ancient three-legged wine vessel / third note of pentatonic scale
zhuī - cone / awl / awl-shaped thing / a drill / auger / gimlet (tool) / to bore (a hole, etc.) / to drill / to prick / perforate

*Note: a variant of the first character is 腳, which is also a separate Chinese character

逗留

March 23, 2014

Japanese Romaji: touryuu

Japanese Meaning: a stay / staying / sojourn

Parts:

tou - stop

ryuu(to, todo, ru) - detain / fasten / halt / stop / to remain

Chinese Pinyin: dòuliú

Chinese Meaning: to stay at / to stop over / to linger / to loiter

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 佇む (tatazumu) for “linger” or “loiter”

Parts:

dòu - to stay / to stop / linger / pause / to tease (play with) / induce / make fun of / amuse / amusing / tempt / allure / arouse / to stir / short pause in reading aloud, equivalent to comma (also written 讀)

liú - detain / halt / stop / to remain / to retain / to stay / to leave (a message, etc.) / to keep / to preserve / to reserve / to set aside / leave behind / bequeath / accept / take / ask somebody to stay / keep somebody from leaving / pay attention to / concentrate on / study abroad / study overseas

*Note 1: in Chinese, this word can alternatively be written as 逗遛

*Note 2: 3 variants of the second character are 畱 畱 畱

大腿

March 24, 2014

Japanese Romaji: daitai

Japanese Meaning: thigh

Parts:

dai(oo, ta, tai) - big / large / huge / great / loud (volume) / senior / the large part of / (suffix)
approximate size / no larger than / (abbreviation) -university
tai(momo) - thigh / femur / femoral

*Note 1: In Japanese, 大人 (adult) is read as “otona”; 大蛇 (big snake) has the reading of “oroichi”; 大和 (an old name for Japan) is read as “Yamato”

Chinese Pinyin: dàtuǐ

Chinese Meaning: thigh

Parts:

dà(dài) - big / large / huge / major / vast / wide / deep / great / high / very / highly / extremely / really / much / oldest / eldest / senior / adult / full-grown / your (politely) / before / after (referring to dates only) / make large / make great
tuǐ - thighs / legs / leg-shaped support

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 股

篆書

March 25, 2014

Japanese Romaji: tensho

Japanese Meaning: seal script (Chinese calligraphic style)

Parts:

ten - seal-style characters

sho(ka, ga, gaki) - write / document / book / penmanship / handwriting / calligraphy (especially Chinese)

Chinese Pinyin: zhuànshū

Chinese Meaning: seal script (Chinese calligraphic style)

Parts:

zhuàn - seal script (a calligraphic style) / seal character (with curved strokes) / the small seal 小篆 and great seal 大篆 / writing in seal script / seal (of office) / official stamp / name

shū - book / letter / writings / document / certificate / write / describe / style of calligraphy / script

*Note: examples of this script can be found here:

<http://www.zh5000.net>

湿疹/濕

March 26, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shisshin

Japanese Meaning: eczema / a rash

Parts:

shitsu(shime) - damp / moist / wet

shin - sickness / measles

*Note 1: in Japanese, 汗疹 (heat rash) can be read as “asemo”; 麻疹 (measles) can be read as “hashika”

Chinese Pinyin: shīzhěn

Chinese Meaning: eczema / atopic dermatitis

Parts:

shī - moist / wet / humid / damp / get wet / an illness / ailments caused by high humidity (Chinese medicine)

zhěn - measles / rash / fever

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 3: another variant of the first character is 溼

面皰

March 29, 2014

Japanese Romaji: nikibi

Japanese Meaning: pimple / acne

Parts:

men(omo, omote, tsura, dzura) - face / features / mug (face) / surface / mask (especially in noh or kyogen) / face guard / (in kendo) striking the head / page / aspect / facet / side / chamfer / counter for broad, flat objects (mirrors, walls, etc.) or levels or stages (video games, etc.) / looking like a ... / acting as if a

pou(bou) - pimple

*Note 1: the “nikibi” reading is unique for these characters for this word only.

Chinese Pinyin: miànpào

Chinese Meaning: pimples / acne / zit / comedos

Parts:

miàn - face of a person / face / side / surface / plane (surface) / dimension / side / direction / aspect / top / extent / scale / range / scope / to face / confront / look / face-to-face / in or to one's face / personally / directly / indicate something flat / counter for flat surfaces (drums, mirrors, flags, etc.)

pào - pimple / acne / blister / a boil / ulcer / bleb

*Note 2: in Chinese, the first character is also the simplified form of 麵 (miàn, noodles).

*Note 3: a variant of the first character is 面 2 variants of the second character are 疱 and 皰 (疱 is also the simplified Chinese version of today's second character)

飛翔

March 29, 2014

Japanese Romaji: hishou

Japanese Meaning: flight / flying / soaring

Parts:

hi(to, pi) - fly / scatter / skip (pages) / rook (shogi)

shou(kake, to) - fly / soar

*Note 1: the Japanese verb “tobu” (とぶ) can either mean “to jump” or “to fly” and can be written with kanji as 飛ぶ (to fly) or 跳ぶ (to jump).

Chinese Pinyin: fēixiáng

Chinese Meaning: to fly / flight / to glide in the air / to circle in the air / to hover in the air / to soar

Parts:

fēi - to fly / flit / flutter / move swiftly / go quickly / to dart / high / unexpected / accidental /

[(Cantonese) cut (hair) / (loanword) fare, ticket]

xiáng - to soar / to glide / hover / to fly / detailed

*Note 2: the second character is also a variant of 詳

双眸/雙

March 29, 2014

Japanese Romaji: soubou

Japanese Meaning: pair of eyes

Parts:

sou(futa, moro) - pair / set of two / comparison / counter for pairs

bou(hitomi) - pupil of the eye / eye

*Note 1: 双六 (sugoroku) refers to two types of Japanese board games

Chinese Pinyin: shuāngmóu

Chinese Meaning: one's pair of eyes

Parts:

shuāng - two / double / dual / pair / couple / both / set of two / twins / two-fold / even (number)

móu - pupil of the eye / eye

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character. A variant of the second character is 牟

*Note 3: kanji count 2100; word count 1200

少尉

April 5, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shoui

Japanese Meaning: second lieutenant / sublieutenant / ensign (rank)

Parts:

shou(suku, suko, oto) - few / little / small

i(jou) - military officer / company officer / rank / jailer / gaoler / old man

Chinese Pinyin: shàowèi

Chinese Meaning: second lieutenant (army rank) / ensign

Parts:

shào(shǎo) - few / small / little / scanty / be short of / less (in number, quantity, duration) / lack / need / inadequate / missing / absent / lost / lose / a short while / a moment / wanting / cannot do without / stop (doing something) / cut out / don't / seldom / quit / young / junior / young master / son of a rich family

wèi - military officer / military rank

*Note: a variant of the second character is 尉

元帥

April 5, 2014

Japanese Romaji: gensui

Japanese Meaning: (field) marshal / (fleet) admiral / general of the army or air force / marshal of the Royal Air Force

Parts:

gen(moto, gan) - origin / beginning / source / root / base / basis / foundation / cause / ingredient / material / (somebody's) side / (somebody's) location / original cost (capital, principal, etc.) / (plant) root / (tree) trunk / handle (chopsticks, brush, etc.) / a grip / first section of a waka / former time / (math) an unknown / (math) element (of a set) / yuan (Chinese monetary unit) / former / ex-sui(sochi) - commander / governor / leading troops / director of the Dazaifu

Chinese Pinyin: yuánshuài

Chinese Meaning: marshal (in the army) / field marshal / a five-star general or admiral / the commander in chief / general of the army

Parts:

yuán - first / origin / beginning / original / Chinese monetary unit (yuan) / dollar / primary / basic / fundamental / head / eldest / chief / big / 60 years (Chinese astrology)
shuài - commander-in-chief / commander / commanding general / to command (e.g. an army) / (slang) handsome, dashing, smart-looking / graceful / smart / elegant / beautiful

嬰兒/兒

April 6, 2014

Japanese Romaji: eiji / midorigo

Japanese Meaning: infant / baby / newborn

Parts:

ei(midori) - baby / sharp (music) / used as western symbol # (sharp) to mark the accidentals of musical notes

ji(ko, go, ni) - child / boy / girl / offspring / newborn babe / young of animals / young woman / young geisha / offshoot / interest / (abbreviation) new shares / (archaism) bird egg / (noun suffix) (after a noun or -masu stem) -er (often of young women)

Chinese Pinyin: yīng'ér

Chinese Meaning: infant / baby

Parts:

yīng - infant / baby / bother / harass / suffer

ér(r) - son / child / baby / oneself / referring to oneself when addressing parents / final particle, suffix placed after many commonly used nouns to avoid employing one-syllable terms in speech / non-syllabic diminutive suffix / retroflex final

叩頭

April 7, 2014

Japanese Romaji: koutou

Japanese Meaning: kowtow (bow made from a kneeling position wherein the forehead touches the ground)

Parts:

kou(tata, data, hata, pata) - to beat / to hit / to strike / thrash / criticize

tou(atama, kashira, gashira, kaburi, koube, zu, juu) - head / mind / brain / intellect / top / hair (on one's head) / boss / leader / top structural component of a kanji / counter for large animals (e.g. head of cattle, horses, etc.) / (after a noun) top of ... / head of ... / (after the -masu stem of a verb) the moment that ..

Chinese Pinyin: kòutóu

Chinese Meaning: to kowtow (traditional greeting, especially to a superior, involving kneeling and pressing one's forehead to the ground)

Parts:

kòu - to knock / to tap / to beat / to kowtow / to bow / (archaism) to ask / enquire

tóu(tou) - head / hairstyle / hair / the top / first / start / end / two ends of something / beginning or end / a stub / remnant / chief / boss / leader (of a group) / side / party / aspect / leading / counter for large animals / counter for certain domestic animals (pigs, livestock, etc.) / suffix for certain objects, location words, and adjectives (to form a noun)

*Note 1: in Chinese, this word can also be written as 磕頭

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 敏

筋骨

April 8, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kinkotsu / sujibone

Japanese Meaning: muscles (sinews) and bones / structure / physique / cartilage

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 軟骨 (ruǎngǔ) for the meaning of “cartilage”

Parts:

kin(suji) - muscle / sinew / tendon / fiber / fibre / string / vein / artery / line / stripe / streak / reason / logic / lineage / descent / plan / plot / storyline / school (e.g. of scholarship or arts) / aptitude / talent / source (of information, etc.) / circle / channel / well-informed person (in a transaction) / logical move (in go, shogi, etc.) / ninth vertical line (shogi) / seam on a helmet / (abbreviation) gristly fish paste (made of muscle, tendons, skin, etc.) / (archaism) social position, status / on (a river, road, etc.) / along / counter for long thin things / (archaism) (Edo period) counter for hundreds of mon (obsolete unit of currency)
kotsu(hone, bone) - bone / frame / skeleton / remains / outline / core / backbone / sprit / fortitude / laborious / troublesome / difficult / knack / skill / trick / secret / know-how / the ropes / hang

*Note 1: although it is spelt the same way using the Roman alphabet, the Japanese pronunciation of “bone” is “bo-nay”.

Chinese Pinyin: jīngǔ

Chinese Meaning: muscles and bones / physique / build (of one’s body) / strength / courage / energy

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 力 (chikara) for “strength” or “energy”; 勇氣 (yuuki) for “courage”

Parts:

jīn - muscle / tendon / sinew / veins that stand out under the skin / anything resembling a tendon or vein

gǔ - bone / skeleton / frame / framework / (Cantonese) checkpoint, threshold

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 筋

飢渴/渴

April 9, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kikatsu

Japanese Meaning: hunger and thirst / starvation

Parts:

ki(u, katsu) - hungry / starve

katsu(kawa) - dry up / parch / thirst

Chinese Pinyin: jīkě

Chinese Meaning: hunger and thirst / hungry and thirsty / ardent / eager

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 熱心 (nesshin) for “ardent” or “eager” (zeal, enthusiasm)

Parts:

jī - hungry / hunger / starving / starved / famished / famine / crop failure

kě - thirsty / thirst / parched / yearn / to pine for / to long for / to crave for / earnestly

*Note: a variant of the first character is 饑

菱形

April 10, 2014

Japanese Romaji: hishigata

Japanese Meaning: rhombus / diamond shape / lozenge (shape)

Parts:

hishi(bishi, hi, ryou) - diamond (shape) / rhombus / caltrop (weapon) / caltrap / water chestnut / Trapa japonica (species of plant closely related to water chestnut or water caltrop)

gata(kata, katachi, nari, gyō, kei) - form / shape / figure / visage / appearance / style / one's clothing / way / form / pattern / a die (for copying) / a model / state / one's circumstances or situation / one's reputation / tense (linguistic) / (Japanese grammar) a conjugation form of a verb / collateral for borrowed money / "heads" on a coin / obverse of an old "zeni" coin

Chinese Pinyin: língxíng

Chinese Meaning: rhombus / rhomb / rhombic / diamond shape / lozenge (shape)

Parts:

líng - water chestnut / water caltrop / waternut / Trapa natans

xíng - form / shape / appearance / figure / complexion / to appear / to look / expression / description / describe / in comparison / show / manifest / terrain / contour

*Note: a variant of the first character is 菱

平坦

April 11, 2014

Japanese Romaji: heitan

Japanese Meaning: flat / even / level

Parts:

hei(tai, dai, hira, hyou, byou) - even / flat / level / something broad and flat / palm of the hand / equal / equality / peace / peaceful / amity / common / ordinary / (Abbreviation) low-ranking employee / freshman / novice / private

tan - level / wide

Chinese Pinyin: píngtǎn

Chinese Meaning: flat / even / level / smooth (roads, going, etc.)

Parts:

píng - even / flat / level / equal / equality / calm / peace / peaceful / amity / to tie (score) / to draw (score) / make the same score / control / regulate / conquer / quell (a revolt) / pacify / pacification / pacified territory / bring peace to / calm down / go back to normal after sharp rises (said of prices) / (Cantonese) cheap

tǎn - flat / level / smooth / wide and smooth / broad and level / self-possessed / composed / calm / frank / straightforward / open / open-hearted

比肩

April 12, 2014

Japanese Romaji: hiken

Japanese Meaning: ranking equal with / comparing favourably with / comparing favorably with

Parts:

hi(kura, koro, tagu) - compare / ratio / proportion / match / equal / race / Philippines (abbreviation) / explicit comparison (style of the Shi Jing)

ken(kata, gata) - shoulder

Chinese Pinyin: bǐjiān / bìjiān

Chinese Meaning: to be shoulder to shoulder / to be on an equal level with / side by side

Parts:

bǐ(bì) - to compare / liken to / comparison / comparable to / than / to contrast / to gesture (with hands) / ratio / be the ratio of / to (in a score) / compete with / emulate / (particle used for comparison and “-er than”) / to associate with / to be near / close / neighbouring / stand side by side / stand close together / lie next to / cling to / collude with / Belgium

jiān - shoulders / to shoulder (responsibilities, etc.) / to bear / to take on / undertake

*Note: a variant of the first character is 𠂇

耳朶/朶

April 12, 2014

Japanese Romaji: mimitabu / jida

Japanese Meaning: earlobe

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 耳垂 (ěrchuí)

Parts:

mimi(ji) - ear / hearing / edge / crust (of bread) / selvedge / selvage (non-fray machined edge of fabrics)

tabu(da) - branch

*Note: in Japanese, the “mimitabu” reading is more colloquial and is more commonly written as 耳たぶ

Chinese Pinyin: ěrduo

Chinese Meaning: ear / handle (on a cup)

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 耳 (mimi) for “ear”; カップの取って (kappu no totte) for “cup handle”

Parts:

ěr - ear / ears / merely / only / contraction of 而已 (that's all / nothing more) / and that is all (classical Chinese) / handle (archaeology)

duo(duǒ) - flower / cluster of flowers or clouds / earlobe / figurative item on both sides / counter for flowers, clouds, etc.

兌換

April 13, 2014

Japanese Romaji: dakan

Japanese Meaning: conversion (of paper money)

Parts:

da - exchange / dui (one of the trigrams of the I Ching: swamp, west, ☵)

kan(ka) - change / convert / renew / replace / period / interchange

Chinese Pinyin: duìhuàn

Chinese Meaning: to exchange (currencies) / to convert (money)

Parts:

duì - to cash (a cheque, etc.) / to exchange / barter / to convert / to add (liquid) / dilute with water /
water down / mix (drinks) / to blend / weight / dui (one of the trigrams of the I Ching: swamp, west, ☵)

huàn - to change / to exchange / to substitute / alter

*Note: a variant of the first character is 兌

木屑

April 14, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kikuzu

Japanese Meaning: wood chips / wood offcuts / wood shavings / sawdust

Parts:

ki(gi, ko, moku, boku) - tree / shrub / wood / wooden / timber / lumber / wood grain / the bent and gnarled trunk or roots of an old tree / Thursday / in ancient China, a wooden musical instrument

kuzu(setsu, isagiyo) - junk / rubbish / scraps / trash / waste / garbage / chad (paper)

Chinese Pinyin: mùxiè

Chinese Meaning: wood shavings / sawdust

Parts:

mù - tree / wood / wooden / made of wood / timber / lumber / coffin / simple / honest / senseless / numb / dull / benumbed / one of the eight ancient musical instruments 八音

xiè - bits / fragments / scraps / crumbs / dust / filings / trifling / trivial / to condescend to / consider worthwhile / care about

屏風

April 15, 2014

Japanese Romaji: byoubu

Japanese Meaning: a folding screen

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 折疊屏風 (zhédié píngfēng)

Parts:

byou(hei) - wall / fence

bu(kaza, kaze, fu, fuu, puu) - wind / air / gust / breeze / gale / a movement of air / manner / style / method / a way / appearance / an air / tendency / folk song (genre of the Shi Jing)

*Note 1: in Japanese, 風邪 (a cold) is read as “kaze”

Chinese Pinyin: píngfēng

Chinese Meaning: a screen

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 衝立 (tsuitate)

Parts:

píng(bǐng, bīng) - (standing) screen / folding screen / shield / protect / vertical scrolls / to get rid of / to put aside / hide away / to reject / abandon / discard / to keep control / to hold (one's breath)

fēng - wind / air / gust / breeze / gale / customs / practices / tendency / manners / atmosphere / style / bearing / attitude / taste / fame / reputation / news / information / rumor / rumour / scenery / view / landscape / sickness (caused by wind and dampness) / certain disease supposedly caused by wind

*Note 2: the difference is that the Chinese term is more general and can include single-panel (non-foldable) screens.

*Note 3: 2 variants of the first character are 屏 and 幘 3 variants of the second character are 風 颯 丰

挑戰/戰

April 16, 2014

Japanese Romaji: chousen

Japanese Meaning: challenge / defiance

Parts:

chou(ido) - challenge / contend for / make love to

sen(ikusa, onono, soyo, tataka, wana, wanana) - battle / fight / war / campaign / match / competition /
(archaism) troops, forces / soldier / warrior

Chinese Pinyin: tiǎozhàn

Chinese Meaning: to challenge / challenge / to throw down the gauntlet / to pick a fight

Parts:

tiǎo(tiāo) - to raise / to dig up / to poke / to prick / to pick put / to incite / to stir up / provoke / instigate
/ hold something up with a pole / rising stroke in Chinese character / to carry on a shoulder pole / a load
carried on the shoulders / shoulder pole with its load / to choose / to pick / to nitpick / choosy / nit-pick

zhàn - battle / fight / fighting / war / warfare / match / competition / contest / contend / shudder /
shiver / tremble

六株

April 17, 2014

Japanese Romaji: rokkabu

Japanese Meaning: six (trees or plants) / six (shares of stock)

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 六股 (liùgǔ) for six (shares)

Parts:

roku(mu, mui, riku) - six

kabu(shu, kuize) - shares / stocks / (tree) stump / root / rootstock / strain (of bacteria, etc.) / tradable / rank / goodwill / one's forte / counter for small plants / counter for trees

*Note: in Japanese, 十六夜 (16th night of the month) is read as "izayoi"

Chinese Pinyin: liùzhū

Chinese Meaning: six (trees or plants)

Parts:

liù - six

zhū - tree trunk / stump (tree root) / root / a plant / tree / counter for trees or plants / to involve others (in shady business)

堤防

April 18, 2014

Japanese Romaji: teibou

Japanese Meaning: embankment / bank / weir / levee / dike / causeway

Parts:

tei(tsutsumi) - embankment / bank / dike

bou(fuse) - defend / protect / resist / ward off

Chinese Pinyin: dīfáng

Chinese Meaning: embankment / dike / levee

Parts:

dī(tí) - dike / embankment / levee

fáng - to protect / to guard (against) / to defend / to prevent / embankment

*Note: two variants of the first character are 埧 and 隄

叛逆

April 19, 2014

Japanese Romaji: hangyaku

Japanese Meaning: rebellion / treason / treachery / mutiny / insurrection

Parts:

han(somu, hon) - defy / disobey / rebel / rebellion / go back on

gyaku(saka, geki) - inverted / opposite / reverse / converse (of a hypothesis, etc.) / wicked

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as 反逆

*Note 2: the second character has the reading “no” when in the verb 逆上せる (noboseru), which means “to feel dizzy”, “to have blood rush to one’s head”, or “to become conceited (it’s gone to his/her head)”.

Chinese Pinyin: pànnì

Chinese Meaning: to rebel / to revolt / sedition / a rebellion / a rebel / one who rebels against his country or superiors

Parts:

pàn - to betray / to rebel against / to revolt / rebellion / rebellious

nì - contrary / counter / reverse / opposite / backwards / adverse / unfavourable / negative / to go against / disobey / offend / to oppose / to betray / to rebel / a rebel / traitor / beforehand / in advance / meet / welcome

冶金

April 19, 2014

Japanese Romaji: yakin

Japanese Meaning: metallurgy

Parts:

ya(ji) - smelting / melting

kin(kana, kane, gane, kon, gon) - gold / golden (color) / money / metal / metaphor for (most) valuable / gold (medal, cup, etc.) / Friday / karat / carat / (colloquialism) testicles

Chinese Pinyin: yějīn

Chinese Meaning: metallurgy

Parts:

yě - to smelt / to cast / fuse metals / to found (metal) / (figurative) to mould (into seductive shape) / to dress up (derogatory) / seductive / coquettish

jīn - gold / golden / money / wealth / metal / generic term for lustrous and ductile metals / highly respected / weapons / arms / precious / excellent / fine / durable

白兔/兔
April 20, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shirousagi
Japanese Meaning: white rabbit

Parts:

shiro(shira, haku, paku, byaku) - white / a white Go stone / innocence / (manga slang) good guy, 'white hat'

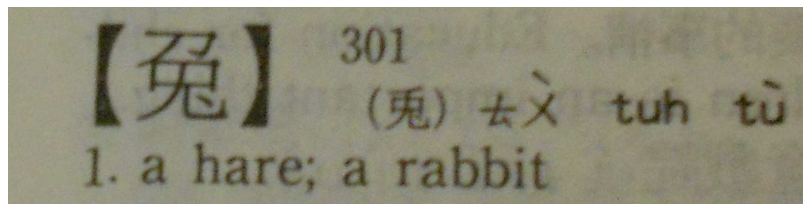
usagi(to) - rabbit / hare / coney / cony / lagomorph (especially leporids)

Chinese Pinyin: báitù
Chinese Meaning: white rabbit

Parts:

bái - white / clear / to make clear / pure / snowy / unblemished / bright / clean / plain / empty / blank / in vain / for nothing / gratuitous / free of charge / gratis / reactionary / anti-communist / funeral / to stare coldly / to write wrong character / to state / to explain / vernacular / spoken lines in opera
tù - rabbit / hare

*Note: 2 more variants of the second character are 菟 and 菟 I also found another variant from my dictionary below:



恒久/恆

April 21, 2014

Japanese Romaji: koukyuu

Japanese Meaning: permanent / perpetuity / lasting / everlasting / eternal / perpetual

Parts:

kou(tsune) - always / constancy / constant / usual / ordinary / everyday / normal

kyuu(hisa, ku) - long time / old story

*Note 1: in Japanese, the similar word 永久 has the readings “eikyuu”, “tokoshie”, and “towa”

Chinese Pinyin: héngjiǔ

Chinese Meaning: constant / constancy / lasting / forever / enduring / persistent / long-lasting / eternal / everlasting

Parts:

héng - permanent / permanence / lasting / perpetual / constant / constancy / regular / persistent / persistence / perseverance / fixed / usual / common / ordinary / rule (old) / one of the 64 trigrams of the Book of Changes

jiǔ - (long) time / (long) duration of time / long time (ago) / time passage / grow late / detain someone

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character as well as a traditional Chinese variant.

*Note 3: a variant of the second character is 久

黎明

April 22, 2014

Japanese Romaji: reimei

Japanese Meaning: dawn / daybreak

Parts:

rei - black / dark / many

mei(a, aka, aki, myou, min) - bright / light / brightness / clarity / acumen / power of vision

*Note 1: 明日 (tomorrow) can have the reading of “ashita” or “asu”

Chinese Pinyin: límíng

Chinese Meaning: dawn / daybreak

Parts:

lí - black / dark / numerous / many / multitudinous / Li ethnic group of Hainan Province / (abbreviation)
Lebanon

míng - bright / light / brilliant / clear (meaning) / to understand / understandable / clarify / obvious /
evident / next (day or year) / public / open / wise / intelligent / clever / eyesight / seeing faculty / day /
daybreak / dawn / to state / show / assert / generic term for a sacrifice to the gods

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 𠄎

執拗

April 23, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shitsuyou

Japanese Meaning: persistent / obstinate / tenacious / relentless / insistent / importunate / persevering / stubborn

Parts:

shitsu(to, shuu) - grasp / take hold / take to heart / tenacious

you(koji, su, neji) - crooked / distorted / perverted / twisted / cross

Chinese Pinyin: zhínìu / zhào

Chinese Meaning: stubborn / willful / pigheaded / persistent / stubbornly recalcitrant / implacability / obduracy / pertinacity / headstrong

Parts:

zhí - to execute (a plan) / carry out / to conduct / take charge of / to grasp / hold in hand / to carry / to catch / capture / detain / keep / stick to (views, etc.) / persist in / insist on / written acknowledgment / intimate friend / bosom friend / soul mate

niù(ào, ǎo) - stubborn / obstinate / headstrong / to bend or twist in two so as to break / to defy / to disobey / to pull / to drag / break off / to pluck (a flower) / bent / warped / perverse / hard to pronounce / unpronounceable

*Note: a variant of the second character is 拗

拔錨/拔

April 24, 2014

Japanese Romaji: batsubyou

Japanese Meaning: setting sail / weigh anchor

Parts:

batsu(nu) - extract / omit / pilfer / pull out / remove / slip out / quote

byou(ikari) - anchor / grapnel

Chinese Pinyin: bāmáo

Chinese Meaning: to weigh anchor

Parts:

bá - to pull up / to pull out / uproot / to draw out (by suction) / to select / to pick / choose / to stand out (above level) / outstanding / to surpass / to seize / capture / root out / suck out / wavering

máo - anchor

*Note: another variant of the first character is 拔

官邸

April 25, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kantei

Japanese Meaning: official residence (of a president or prime minister)

Parts:

kan(tsukasa) - bureaucrat / the bureaucracy / the government / government service / chief / head /
(archaism) office / official

tei(yashiki) - mansion / residence / estate / grounds / premises

Chinese Pinyin: guāndǐ

Chinese Meaning: official residence (of a president or prime minister)

Parts:

guān - government official / government / officer / office holder / public servant / official / state-owned
/ government-run / public / general / organ of body

dǐ - lodging-house / official residence / residence of a high official

各県/縣

April 26, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kakuen

Japanese Meaning: all prefectures

Japanese to Chinese Translation: see note

Parts:

kaku(ono) - each / either / every / all

ken(agata) - prefecture (Japan) / county (China) / a type of administrative district / territory (pre-Taika: under the Yamato court; Heian: under a provincial governor, etc.) / (archaism) countryside

Chinese Pinyin: gèxiàn

Chinese Meaning: every county

Chinese to Japanese Translation: see note

Parts:

gè - each / every / all / individually / each (other) / separately

xiàn - county / district / subdivision / prefecture

*Note: in general terms, the second character describes a specific type of administrative division in certain countries and it also varies by country. Thus, this word means “every” one of those divisions in a country. Further information about some countries which use this term are at the following pages:

China: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counties_of_the_People%27s_Republic_of_China

Taiwan: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/County_\(Taiwan\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/County_(Taiwan))

Japan: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prefectures_of_Japan

不穩/穩

April 26, 2014

Japanese Romaji: fuon

Japanese Meaning: unrest / turbulence / impropriety / disquieting / threatening / alarming

Parts:

fu(bu) - un- / non- / in- / negative prefix / bad... / poor... / negative / clumsy / ugly

on(oda, non) - calm / moderation / quiet

Chinese Pinyin: bùwěn

Chinese Meaning: unsteady / unstable (market, position, etc.) / not firm / insecure

Parts:

bù(bú, bu) - un- / non- / not / no / (negative prefix)

wěn - settled / steady / stable / stabilize / calm / firm / solid / sure / certain / definite

*Note: the two main usages of this word are (1) in tense situations or (2) when a body has lost its balance.

胡椒

April 27, 2014

Japanese Romaji: koshou

Japanese Meaning: pepper (spice)

Parts:

ko(u, go, kyu) - foreign / barbarian / barbarian tribes surrounding ancient China

shou(sho, hajikami) - mountain ash / Japanese pepper (*Zanthoxylum piperitum*) / (archaism) ginger (*Zingiber officinale*)

*Note 1: 胡座/胡坐 (sitting cross-legged) is read as “agura”.

Chinese Pinyin: hújiāo

Chinese Meaning: pepper (spice)

Parts:

hú - blunder / reckless / recklessly / foolishly / blindly / stupidly / confusedly / nonsensical / wildly / disorderly / outrageous / (archaic) non-Han people, especially from central Asia / non-Han ethnic tribes in the north and west of China in ancient times / a general name of the northern tribes / introduced from non-Han ethnic groups or from abroad / foreign / what? / why? / how? / when? / long and lasting / to complete a winning hand at mah-jong / alley / lane / chili pepper

jiāo - pepper / spices / hot spiced plant / chili / chilli / chile

*Note 2: in Japanese, this is more commonly written as コショウ or こしょう

*Note 3: the first character is also the simplified Chinese version of 衡 and 鬍

普遍

April 28, 2014

Japanese Romaji: fuhen

Japanese Meaning: universal / general / ubiquitous / omnipresent

Parts:

fu(amine) - generally / widely / universal / Prussia

hen(amine, ben, pen) - everywhere / generally / times / widely / counter for number of times

Chinese Pinyin: pǔbiàn

Chinese Meaning: universal / general / widespread / common / normal / everywhere

Parts:

pǔ - general / universal / popular / widespread / everywhere / common / all

biàn - everywhere / all over / all around / throughout / counter for actions (one time, once through, a turn, etc.)

*Note 1: 普通話 (pǔtōng huà, literally meaning "ordinary speech") is used in China to refer to the Mandarin language. 國語 (guóyǔ) is used in Taiwan.

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 普 A variant of the second character is 徧

帮助/幫

April 29, 2014

Japanese Romaji: houjo

Japanese Meaning: assistance / backing / support / aiding and abetting

Parts:

hou - help

jo(suke, tasu) - help / rescue / assist / assistance / assistant

Chinese Pinyin: bāngzhù

Chinese Meaning: assistance / aid / to help / to assist

Parts:

bāng - to help / to assist / to support / to defend / for somebody (i.e. as a help) / hired (as worker) / side (of pail, boat, etc.) / outer layer / group / gang / class / fleet / clique / party / secret society / shoe upper / the sides of a shoe or gutter

zhù - to help / to assist / to aid / assistance

*Note: another variant of the first character is 幫

長袖

April 30, 2014

Japanese Romaji: nagasode

Japanese Meaning: long sleeves

Parts:

naga(osa, chou, tsukasa) - long / leader / chief / head (of an organization) / elder / merit / strong point / superiority / the greatest of all / the most excellent / major (music) / (archaism) office / official
sode(shuu) - sleeve / an arm / wing (of a building or stage) / extension / give cold shoulder

*Note 1: 長閑 (tranquil / calm / quiet / peaceful) is read as “nodoka”.

Chinese Pinyin: chángxiù

Chinese Meaning: long sleeves / long-sleeved shirt

Parts:

cháng(zhǎng) - long / length / forever / always / constantly / excel in / be good at / forte / strong point / leader / chief / head (of an organization) / elder / master / older / senior / a superior / to grow / to develop / to increase / to enhance
xiù - sleeve / cuff / to tuck inside one's sleeve / put something in sleeve

*Note 2: 2 variants of the first character are 𦏧 and 𦏨 A variant of the second character is 𦏩

神祇

May 1, 2014

Japanese Romaji: jingi

Japanese Meaning: gods of heaven and earth

Parts:

jin(kami, gami, kamu, kan, shin, mi) - god / gods / deity / divinity / kami / spirit / psyche / mind / soul

gi - national or local god / great / peaceful

*Note 1: 神戸 (the city of Kobe) is read as “koube”

Chinese Pinyin: shénqí

Chinese Meaning: the gods / the spirits

Parts:

shén - God / deity / supernatural being / immortal / divine essence / soul / mind / spirit / unusual / mysterious / lively / expressive / spiritual being / supernatural / marvelous / wondrous / miraculous / mystical / appearance / looks / expressions / air / smart / clever

qí(zhǐ) - indigenous god / earth-spirit / the spirit of the earth / god of the earth / peace / but / only / merely / just

*Note 2: characters which have the left radical 礻 (4 strokes) often appear with it replaced by 示. The second version of this radical is usually used in older Japanese or Chinese texts as well as standard in certain printed characters. The radical itself usually means that the entire character has something to do with gods. Note that the first version should not be confused with the radical 衤 (which has 5 strokes and is based on 衣 for clothing).

*Note 3: a variant of the first character is 神 A variant of the second character is 祇

祈祷/祈禱
May 2, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kitou

Japanese Meaning: a prayer / grace / exorcism

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 驅邪 (qūxié) for the meaning of “exorcism”

Parts:

ki(ino) - pray / wish

tou(ino) - pray

*Note 1: in Japanese, 祈年祭 (prayer service for a good crop) has an alternative reading of “toshigoi no matsuri)

Chinese Pinyin: qídǎo

Chinese Meaning: to pray / to say one's prayers / (to offer a) prayer

Parts:

qí - to implore / to pray / to request / entreat / beseech / beg / plead

dǎo - prayer / pray / supplication / entreat / beg (used in correspondence) / plead

*Note 2: characters which have the left radical 礻 (4 strokes) often appear with it replaced by 示. The second version of this radical is usually used in older Japanese or Chinese texts as well as standard in certain printed characters. The radical itself usually means that the entire character has something to do with gods. Note that the first version should not be confused with the radical 衤 (which has 5 strokes and is based on 衣 for clothing).

*Note 3: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

昭和

May 3, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shouwa

Japanese Meaning: Showa era (Dec. 25, 1926 – Jan. 7, 1989) / Showa, reign name of Emperor Hirohito of Japan (1925-1989)

Parts:

shou - bright / shining

wa(a, nago, yawa, ka, yori) - harmony / peace / peaceful / sum / soften / Japan / Japanese style / Nippo- / poorly-built / weak / insubstantial

*Note 1: 大和 (an old name for Japan) is read as “Yamato”

Chinese Pinyin: zhāohé

Chinese Meaning: Showa era (Dec. 25, 1926 – Jan. 7, 1989) / Showa, reign name of Emperor Hirohito of Japan (1925-1989)

Parts:

zhāo - bright / luminous / illustrious / clear / manifest / obvious / to show clearly / indicate / reveal / exonerate / rehabilitate

hé(huò, huó, hè, hú) - harmony / harmonious / on good terms / peace / peaceful / calm / gentle / mild / and / together with / with / to / as / sum / union / aggregate / gross (sum) / make peace / cease fighting / draw (score) / tie (a match, game, etc.) / Japanese related / Japanese (food, clothes, etc.) / to mix together / to blend / to stir / soft / warm / to compose a poem in reply (to somebody's poem) using the same rhyme sequence / to join in the singing / to chime in with others / sing along with others / echo what others say / to make sounds in concert with / to complete a set in mahjong or playing cards / winning hand in mahjong or card games

*Note 2: in Japan, the year is often represented by the reigning emperor's posthumous name followed by the number of years since the reign began. For example, the tenth year of Emperor Hirohito's reign (1935) is known as “Showa 10” (昭和 10 年). The current year (2014) is the 26th year of the Heisei era, so it is also known as “Heisei 26” (平成 26 年).Further details can be found here: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Japanese_era_namesA Western-to-Japanese year converter can be found here: <http://www.sjfaq.org/cgi/date.cgi>

*Note 3: starting in 2007, April 29 in Japan is known as “Showa Day” and marks the beginning of the Golden Week holiday.

*Note 4: 3 variants of the second character are 和 和 和

広州/廣

May 3, 2014

Japanese Romaji: koushuu

Japanese Meaning: Guangzhou (China) / Canton

Parts:

kou(hiro, biro) - broad / spacious / wide / vast

shuu(su) - province / state (e.g. of US) / county (UK) / department (of ancient China) / continent / (suffix) (archaism) (after someone's name) dear / sandbank / sandbar

Chinese Pinyin: guǎngzhōu

Chinese Meaning: Guangzhou subprovincial city and capital of Guangdong (China) / Canton

Parts:

guǎng - wide / broad / extensive / spacious / numerous / to spread / stretch / extend

zhōu - prefecture / county / state (e.g. of US) / province (archaism) / administrative division (archaism) / administrative district in ancient China / region with 2,500 families / place surrounded by water / islet / continent / large island / sandbar

*Note: Guangzhou is the origin of the Cantonese language (a variant of Chinese). Cantonese is romanized into English using Jyutping (as opposed to pinyin for Mandarin, which is what I have only been using). The English word "Cantonese" can refer to 1) the Yue language (粵語 Yuèyǔ) or 2) the dialect of the Yue language which is spoken in Guangzhou and various other places. Using Jyutping, speakers of Cantonese native to Guangzhou refer to 1) as "jyut6 jyu5" and to 2) as 廣州話 (gwong2 zau1 waa2) or 白話 (baak6 waa2). Cantonese speakers elsewhere refer to their language as 廣東話 (gwong2 dung1 waa2).

Further information is at the following links:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yue_Chinese

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cantonese>

友誼

May 4, 2014

Japanese Romaji: yuugi

Japanese Meaning: friendship / friendly relations / fellowship / amity

Parts:

yuu(tomo) - friend / companion / comrade / pal

gi(yoshimi) - friendship / friendly relations / connection / relation / intimacy

Chinese Pinyin: yǒuyì

Chinese Meaning: companionship / fellowship / friendship

Parts:

yǒu - friend / companion / friendly / friendship / fraternity / fraternal love / befriend

yì(yí) - friendship / courtesy / appropriate / suitable / adoptive / adopted

*Note: a variant of the second character is 誼

殴打/毆

May 5, 2014

Japanese Romaji: ouda

Japanese Meaning: beating / assault and battery (law) / to hit / to strike / a blow / striking / knuckling

Parts:

ou(nagu) - assault / to beat / hit / thrash

da(u, bu, daasu, chou) - hit / knock / pound / strike / dozen

Chinese Pinyin: ōudǎ

Chinese Meaning: to beat up a person with fists or clubs / assault and battery (law) / to come to blows / to have a fist fight / to fisticuff

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 戦う (tatakau) for “fighting” in general; 殴り合い (naguriai) for “fist fight”

Parts:

ōu - to beat up / to hit somebody / fight with fists / hit / fight / bash / to strike / brawl / come to blows

dǎ(dá) - to beat / to strike / to hit / to attack / to break / to smash / to type / to mix up / to build / to fight / to fetch / to make / to do / to get / to buy / to tie up / to issue / to shoot / to calculate / to play (a game) / since / from / to / toward / dozen

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: the nuance in Japanese usually refers to a one-sided beating while the Chinese term includes this as well as fighting in general.

疎遠/疏

May 6, 2014

Japanese Romaji: soen

Japanese Meaning: (of relationships) drifting apart / becoming estranged / estrangement / alienation / neglect / a long silence

Parts:

so(oro, oro, uto, maba, uro) - alienate / neglect / rough / shun / sparse / not close (of a relationship)
en(too, on) - distant / far

Chinese Pinyin: shūyuǎn

Chinese Meaning: (of relationships) to drift apart / to become estranged / to alienate / estrangement / not close / cold / to make a stranger of / to become distant with

Parts:

shū - to dredge (a river)/ to clear away obstruction / remove obstruction / thin / sparse / scattered / thin out / disperse / scanty / distant (relation) / not close / not familiar / to neglect / negligent / careless / lax / hollow / void / shallow / to present a memorial to the Emperor / commentary / annotation / explanatory note / present point by point

yuǎn(yuàn) - distant / far away (in time or space) / distant in relationship / by far / far and away / not anywhere near / remote / profound / deep / keep at a distance / keep away from / shun / avoid / to distance oneself from (classical)

*Note 1: in certain Japanese words, the Chinese version of the first character is interchangeable with the Japanese version. The Chinese version can also be treated as a separate Japanese character.

*Note 2: another variant of the first character is 疎

仇敵

May 7, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kyuuteki

Japanese Meaning: bitter enemy / one's sworn enemy / mortal enemy

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 死敵 (sǐdí) or 冤家對頭 (yuānjiāduìtóu)

Parts:

kyuu(ada, kataki) - enemy / foe / rival / opponent / adversary / feud /grudge / resentment / enmity / revenge / harm / injury

teki(kataki, gataki, kana) - enemy / foe / opponent / competitor / rival / adversary / menace / danger / threat

Chinese Pinyin: chóudí

Chinese Meaning: enemy / foe / antagonist

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 敵 (teki, kataki, gataki)

Parts:

chóu(qiú) - hatred / hate / animosity / enmity / foe / enemy / rival / to feel animosity toward (the wealthy, foreigners, etc.) / spouse / companion

dí - enemy / foe / opponent / rival / match / equal / hostile / antagonistic / opposing / to resist / oppose / to withstand / stand up to

*Note 1: the Japanese term describes a specific enemy while the Chinese term is more general.

*Note 2: 2 variants of the first character are 讎 and 讎

便箋

May 8, 2014

Japanese Romaji: binsen

Japanese Meaning: (a sheet or pad of) writing paper / letter paper / stationery

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 信紙 (xìnzhǐ) or 信箋 (xìnjiān) for “writing paper”; 文具 (wénjù) for “stationery”

Parts:

bin(ben, tayo, yosuga) - opportunity / chance / flight (e.g. airline flight) / trip (e.g. train trip) / (bus) service / mail / post / letter / convenience / convenient / service / handy / facilities / accommodation / excreta (especially faeces) / stools / excrement / bowel movement / something to rely on / aid / clue / way / means / someone to rely on / relative / reminder / memento

ri(ki) - advantage / benefit / profit / gains / interest

sen - composition / letter / slip (of paper) / paper / tag (usually bamboo, wood, ivory, paper, etc.) / label

Chinese Pinyin: biànjiān

Chinese Meaning: notepaper / memo / memorandum / memo pad

Chinese to Japanese Translation: メモ (memo)

Parts:

biàn(pián) - ordinary / plain / convenience / convenient / as convenient / when the chance arises / handy / easy / ease / expedient / informal / simple / news / equivalent to 就 (then / in that case / even if / soon afterwards) / even if / even though / so / thus / proper / appropriate / suitable / to relieve oneself / to urinate / to defecate / excreta / stools / excrement or urine / unmerited advantages / cheap / advantageous / glib-tongued / sleek / bulging / swelling

jiān - letter / correspondence / note paper / note / memo / stationery / writing paper / comments / commentary / annotation

*Note 1: the difference between Japanese and Chinese isn't very distinct, but based on example sentences and advanced Google image search, the Japanese term tends to be used to describe paper for writing larger notes (e.g. letters) whereas the Chinese term tends to describe paper used to write smaller notes (e.g. post-it notes).

*Note 2: 2 variants of the second character are 楨 and 牋

端緒

May 9, 2014

Japanese Romaji: tansho / tancho

Japanese Meaning: a clue / the start / the beginning / the first step

Parts:

tan(ha, hashi, hashita, haji, hata, hana, ba, bata) - end (e.g. of a street) / tip (of something) / point / edge / margin / border / verge / cape / beginning / start / first / origin / odds and ends / scrap / odd bit / least / near / close / beside / vicinity / proximity / besides / while / third person / fraction / odd sum / (abbreviation) loose change / (archaism) low class female servant / variable measure of fabric (28.8 cm in width); for kimonos: at least 10 m in length; for haori: at least 7.27 m in length; for other clothes: at least 6.06 m in length

sho(itoguchi, o, cho) - cord / strap / thong / beginning / thread end / clue / inception

Chinese Pinyin: duānxù

Chinese Meaning: clues to the handling of a thing / inkling / start and development / thread (of a story) / general outline

Parts:

duān - end (e.g. of a street) / tip (of something) / point / aspect / extremity / extreme / item / port / to hold something level with both hands / to carry / regular / head / beginning / cause / reason / erect / upright / proper

xù - beginnings / commencement / clues / mental state / emotional state / mood / end of thread / thread / remnants / remains / leftovers / task / cause / undertaking

*Note: a variant of the first character is 端 A variant of the second character is 緒

弾劾/彈

May 10, 2014

Japanese Romaji: dangai

Japanese Meaning: impeachment / accusation / censure / denunciation

Parts:

dan(tama, dama, haji, hazu, hi, bi, tan) - bullet / ball / sphere / globe / orb / bead (of sweat, etc.) / drop / droplet / pile (of noodles, etc.) / (light) bulb / lens (of glasses, etc.) / bead (of an abacus) / (slang) (abbreviation) ball (i.e. a testicle) / egg / gem / jewel (especially spherical, sometimes used figuratively) / pearl / female entertainer (e.g. a geisha) / (derogatory) person (when commenting on their nature) / character / item, funds, or person used as part of a plot / coin / flip / snap / twang / precious / beautiful / excellent / counter for parts (of a story, etc.)

gai - censure / criminal investigation

Chinese Pinyin: tánhé

Chinese Meaning: to impeach / to accuse of misconduct (in an official task)

Parts:

tàn(dán) - bullet / shot / shell / pellet / bomb / ball / crossball / to pluck (a string) / to play (a string instrument) / to strum / to spring / to leap / to shoot (with a catapult, etc.) / shoot off / (of cotton) to fluff or tease / to flick / to flip / to accuse / to impeach / to suppress / elastic (of materials) / elasticity / stretch / to rebound / bounce

hé - to impeach / to charge / examine into

名誉/譽

May 10, 2014

Japanese Romaji: meiyo

Japanese Meaning: honor / honour / honorary / honorable / credit / prestige / fame / famous / distinction / reputation

Parts:

mei(na, myou) - name / title / position / reputation / distinguished / famous / great / noted / first name / (honorific) counter for people (usually seating, reservations and such)

yo(homa, ho) - glory / honor / honour / praise / reputation

Chinese Pinyin: míngyù

Chinese Meaning: fame / reputation / repute / honor / honour / honorary (chairman, president, etc.) / emeritus (of retired professor)

Parts:

míng - name / given name / title / position / place (e.g. among winners) / rank / reputation / distinguished / fame / famous / celebrated / well-known / noted / noun (part of speech) / counter for people

yù - reputation / fame / repute / praise / eulogize / acclaim

*Note: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

富裕

May 11, 2014

Japanese Romaji: fuyuu

Japanese Meaning: wealth / wealthy / riches / opulence / well-off / well-to-do

Parts:

fu(tomi, to, fuu) - abundant / enrich / wealth / fortune

yuu - abundant / fertile / rich

Chinese Pinyin: fùyù

Chinese Meaning: rich / wealthy / prosperous / well-to-do / well-off

Parts:

fù - rich / abundant / wealthy / affluent / plentiful / ample

yù - abundant / rich / plentiful / affluent / plenty / tolerant (administration, etc.) / lenient (punishment, etc.) / generous / magnanimous / slowly / take time

*Note 1: this word isn't restricted to mean "having lots of money" and can generally mean "having enough to be happy"

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 富

天誅

May 12, 2014

Japanese Romaji: tenchuu

Japanese Meaning: divine retribution / punishment from heaven / heaven's (well-deserved) punishment

Parts:

ten(ama, ame) - heaven / sky

chuu - death penalty

Chinese Pinyin: tiānzhū

Chinese Meaning: heavenly punishment / king's punishment

Parts:

tiān - day / heaven / sky / celestial / god / godly / top of one's head / nature / natural

zhū - to put (a criminal) to death / to punish / execute / kill

*Note 1: in Chinese, 人不為己, 天誅地滅 (rénbùwèijǐ, tiānzhūdìmiè) means "Every man for himself"

*Note 2: 2 variants of the first character are 𠀤 and 𠀥

叙事/叙

May 13, 2014

Japanese Romaji: joji

Japanese Meaning: narration / description

Parts:

jo - narrate / describe / confer / relate

ji(koto, goto, zu) - matter / thing / issue / occasions / circumstances / situation / affair / state of affairs / details / particulars / something / accident / incident / case / occurrence / event / something serious / trouble / crisis / experience / business / work / duty / fact / worthwhileness / reason / abstract concept or thing (as opposed to a tangible object) / after an inflectable word, creates a noun phrase indicating something the speaker does not feel close to / nominalizing suffix / pretending to ... / playing make-believe ...

Chinese Pinyin: xùshì

Chinese Meaning: narrative / to narrate / to recount

Parts:

xù - to narrate / to chat / to express / to state / relate / (abbreviation) Syria

shì - matter / matters / thing / issue / business / affair / event / happening / accident / incident / occurrence / trouble / undesirable event / item / work / job / career / occupation / task / duties / functions / to serve / service / fact / subject / attend / do / manage a business / often part of a title

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: another variant of the first character is 叙 2 variants of the second character are 事 and 叟

教唆

May 14, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kyousa

Japanese Meaning: instigation / incitement / abetment

Parts:

kyou(oshi, oso) - teach / instruct / educate / faith / doctrine / religion / teaching

sa(sosonoka, soso) - instigate / promote / seduce / tempt

Chinese Pinyin: jiàosuō

Chinese Meaning: to instigate / to incite / to abet / to suborn / to conspire with / to urge on a criminal act / to foment

Parts:

jiào(jiāo) - to teach / instruct / educate / class / to tell / faith / doctrine / religion / religious teachings / instruction / to make / to cause / to permit

suō - to incite / instigate / abet / make mischief / to suck

*Note: a variant of the first character is 教

触感/觸

May 15, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shokkan

Japanese Meaning: sense of touch / sense of being touched / tactile sense / the feel

Parts:

shoku(sawa, zawa, fu, bu) - feel / touch / contact / hit / conflict / announce / proclaim

kan - emotion / feeling / sensation / perceive / impression / admiration

Chinese Pinyin: chùgǎn

Chinese Meaning: tactile sensation / touch / feel / the tactile impression / tactility

Parts:

chù - to touch / to make contact with something / to strike / to butt / to ram / to gore / run against / to stir up somebody's emotions / to move someone (emotionally) / offend / violate / infuriate

gǎn - to feel / perceive / emotion / feeling / find / sensation / to sense / to move / to touch / to affect / respond to / (suffix) sense of...

*Note: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

小匙

May 16, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kosaji

Japanese Meaning: teaspoon

Parts:

ko(o, sa, chii, bo, shou) - little / small / slight / tiny / short / light / young / infant / smallness / small item / narrow / slightly / a bit / slightly less than / just about / somewhat / somehow / minor (sometimes derogatory) / petty / of secondary importance / secondary / sub- / familiar prefix / short month (i.e. having fewer than 31 days) / (abbreviation) elementary school / younger or inferior (of two items or people with the same name) / (archaism) unit of field area (approx. 400 sq. m)

saji(shi) - spoon

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word can also be written as 小さじ

*Note 2: 匙を投げる (saji o nageru) is an idiom meaning “to throw in the towel”. It literally means “throw the spoon”.

Chinese Pinyin: xiǎochí

Chinese Meaning: teaspoon

Parts:

xiǎo - little / small / tiny / few / young / junior / minor / humble / mean / lowly / insignificant / trivial / unimportant / light / petty

chí(shi) - spoon / key

静岡/靜

May 17, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shizuoka

Japanese Meaning: Shizuoka (city or prefecture in Japan)

Parts:

shizu(sei, jou) - quiet / peaceful

oka(kou) - hill / knoll / mount / rising ground / height

Chinese Pinyin: jìnggāng

Chinese Meaning: Shizuoka (city or prefecture in Japan)

Parts:

jìng - still / calm / quiet / not moving / motionless / gentle / tranquility / silence / peaceful / harmonious
/ serene / virtuous / chaste

gāng - ridge / mound / ridge or crest of a hill / low hill / hillock

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character

*Note 2: Mt. Fuji is located on the boundary of Shizuoka and Yamanashi prefectures

伊勢

May 17, 2014

Japanese Romaji: ise

Japanese Meaning: Ise (city in Mie prefecture, Japan)

Parts:

i(da) - that one / (abbreviation) Italy

se(ikio, hazu, sei, zei) - energy / forces / military strength / groups engaged in some activity (players, companies, forces, etc.)

Chinese Pinyin: yīshì

Chinese Meaning: Ise (city in Mie prefecture, Japan)

Parts:

yī - third person pronoun (him, her, [less common in Mandarin, used in Shanghainese, Min Nan]) / he / she / this / that / what / who / (abbreviation) Iraq / (abbreviation) Iran

shì - power / force / influence / strength / potential / momentum / tendency / trend / situation / conditions / state of affairs / circumstances / outward appearance / sign / posture / carriage / gesture / male genitals

*Note: the Ise Grand Shrine (伊勢神宮 Ise Jinguu) in the city of Ise is considered to be the most sacred Shinto shrine in Japan.

雨靴

May 18, 2014

Japanese Romaji: amagutsu

Japanese Meaning: (a pair of) rain shoes / rain boots / galoshes / overshoes / Wellingtons / Wellington boots / wellies / waterproof shoes

Parts:

ama(ame, same, u, gure) - rain

gutsu(kutsu, ka) - shoes / footwear / footgear / boots

*Note 1: 梅雨 (Japanese rainy season) is read as “tsuyu” or “dzuyu”.

Chinese Pinyin: yǔxuē

Chinese Meaning: (a pair of) rain boots / rubber boots / galoshes / oiled or rubber boots for wet weather / Wellingtons / Wellington boots / wellies / waterproof boots

Parts:

yǔ(yù) - rain / rainy / to rain / to fall (of snow, rain, etc.) / to precipitate / to wet

xuē - boots

*Note 2: the second character is more often used for “shoes” in Japanese and “boots” in Chinese. In Chinese, shoes are more commonly called 鞋 (xié). In Japanese, “boots” are more commonly called ブーツ (buutsu).

*Note 3: a variant of the first character is 永 A variant of the second character is 鞞

濾過

May 19, 2014

Japanese Romaji: roka

Japanese Meaning: filtration / filtering / percolation

Parts:

ro(ko) - filter

ka(ayama, su, yo, yogi) - exceed / go beyond / overdo / error / surplus- (attaches to start of Sino-Japanese words) / excess- / over- / per- (chemical with more of a certain element than found in other compounds of the same constituents)

Chinese Pinyin: lǚguò

Chinese Meaning: to filter

Parts:

lǚ - to filter / to strain out / percolate

guò - surpass / exceed / excel / too (much) / excessive / excessively / unduly / pass through / to cross / go across / walk / to go over / to pass (time) / spend time / to celebrate (a holiday) / to live / to get along / mistake / demerit / fault / (particle for experienced actions) / (particle used for comparison)

*Note: in Japanese, this word appears more commonly as ろ過. In Chinese, this word more commonly appears with the characters switched.

黒犀/黒

May 20, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kurosai

Japanese Meaning: black rhinoceros (Diceros bicornis)

Parts:

kuro(koku) - black / dark / (manga slang) bad guy, 'black hat' / guilt / the guilty one / the guilty party

sai(sei) - rhinoceros

Chinese Pinyin: hēixī

Chinese Meaning: black rhinoceros (Diceros bicornis)

Parts:

hēi - black / dark / evil / sinister / wicked / gloomy (face) / glum / secret / shady / unlawful / (loanword)
to hack

xī(xi) - rhinoceros / sharp / incisive / acute / hard / well-tempered (as metal)

*Note: a variant of the second character is 犀

贖罪

May 21, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shokuzai

Japanese Meaning: atonement / expiation / (Christianity) the Atonement / the Redemption

Parts:

shoku(agana) - redeem

zai(tsumi) - crime / fault / indiscretion / sin / blame / guilt / offense / offence

Chinese Pinyin: shúzuì

Chinese Meaning: to atone for one's crime or sin / to expiate a sin / to buy freedom from punishment / (Christianity) redemption / atonement / to redeem one of his transgressions

Parts:

shú - to redeem / to ransom / buy / atone for / expiate / (Cantonese) (of money) give change

zuì - guilt / crime / offence / offense / charge / fault / blame / mistake / sin / vice / evil / hardship / suffering / pain / misery

*Note: a variant of the second character is 辜

承諾

May 22, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shoudaku

Japanese Meaning: consent / acquiescence / agreement / agree to / assent / accept / acceptance

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 同意 (tóngyì)

Parts:

shou(uketamawa, u, jou) - acquiesce / be informed / hear / listen to / receive / second line of a four-line Chinese poem

daku(ubena) - agreement / assent / consent

*Note: "uketamawa" is one of the longest Japanese readings for any kanji. The only other one with the same length is 志 (kokorozashi), which means "intention", "will", or "motive".

Chinese Pinyin: chéngnuò

Chinese Meaning: to promise / to promise (to do something) / to vow / to pledge / to undertake to do something / commitment / to agree to / effort / undertaking

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 約束 (yakusoku)

Parts:

chéng - to bear / to carry / to hold / to support / to undertake / contract (to do a job) / inherit / to continue / to carry on / to take charge / owing to / indebted to / obliged to / take an order / receive an instruction / due to / to receive / to succeed / be granted a favor

nuò - promise / consent / assent / pledge / approve / yes / yeah

栈橋/棧

May 23, 2014

Japanese Romaji: sanbashi / sankyou

Japanese Meaning: wharf / jetty / pier / bridge / suspension bridge (read as “sankyou”)

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 吊橋 (diàoqiáo) or 懸索橋 (xuánsuǒqiáo) for “suspension bridge”

Parts:

san(kakehashi, sa, etsuri) - frame (i.e. of a sliding door) / crosspiece / bar / sliding wooden bolt (for holding a door or window shut) / rung (of a ladder) / scaffold / jetty / cleat / suspension bridge / viaduct / temporary bridge / mediation / go-between / (abbreviation) sheathing (under thatched roofing) / lath (used as a foundation for a mud plaster wall) / decorative rafters (of alternating wood and bamboo)
bashi(hashi, kyou) - bridge / pons (pontes) / pons Varolii / pontine / part of the brain stem (links the medulla oblongata and cerebellum with the midbrain)

Chinese Pinyin: zhànqiáo

Chinese Meaning: a landing pier / a landing-stage / a loading trestle for goods or passengers / a platform / a pier for loading and unloading purposes

Parts:

zhàn - a warehouse / tavern / inn / wood or bamboo trestlework / plank road built on a cliff / a wooden or bamboo pen for sheep or cattle / a shed / a stable
qiáo - bridge / beam / crosspiece / (Cantonese) idea, pointer, trick

*Note: a variant of the second character is 槁

痛惜

May 24, 2014

Japanese Romaji: tsuuseki

Japanese Meaning: deep regret / regret deeply / deplore / grieve / lament / feel grieved

Parts:

tsuu(ita) - bruise / damage / hurt / pain / ache / -algia / ouch / ow

seki(o, shaku) - pity / regret / stingy / frugal / be sparing of

Chinese Pinyin: tòngxī

Chinese Meaning: to regret deeply / to lament over

Parts:

tòng - hurt / pain / ache / painful / aching / physically or mentally sore / sorry / sad / sorrow / sorrowful / poignant / bitterly / bitter / heartily / to one's heart's content / deeply / thoroughly

xī(xí) - to cherish / value highly / care for tenderly / stint / cannot bear to abandon / grudge / to begrudge / rue / to pity / have pity on / feel sorry for / regret / (Cantonese) kiss

鉤針/鉤

May 24, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kagibari

Japanese Meaning: a crochet-hook (needle) / a hook

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 鉤/鈎 (gōu) for “hook” in general

Parts:

kagi(hari, bari, kou) - hook / barb / brackets / gaff / (abbreviation) hook bracket (Japanese quotation mark) / needle / pin / stinger / thorn / hand (e.g. clock) etc. / pointer / staple (for stapler) / needlework / sewing / malice / counter for stitches

bari(shin, hari) - needle / pin / (fishing) hook / stinger / thorn / hand (e.g. clock, etc.) / pointer / staple (for stapler) / needlework / sewing / malice / counter for stitches

Chinese Pinyin: gōuzhēn

Chinese Meaning: crochet hook / crochet needle

Parts:

gōu - to hook / to sew / to catch / to crochet / sew with large stitches / a hook / barb / sickle / check mark or tick / stroke with / window catch / hooked stroke (in Chinese character)

zhēn - needle / needle-like object / pin / probe / tack / acupuncture / injection / a shot / stitch

*Note 1: both versions of the first character can be used in Japanese and traditional Chinese. The first version tends to be more common. The simplified Chinese version is 钩

*Note 2: another variant of the first character is 勾 2 variants of the second character are 鍼 and 箴

進駐

May 25, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shinchuu

Japanese Meaning: occupation / stationing / advancement (into) / making an (armed) entry into

Parts:

shin(susu, jin) - advance / proceed / progress / promote

chuu - reside in / resident / stop-over

Chinese Pinyin: jìnzhù

Chinese Meaning: to enter and garrison / enter and be stationed in / to march troops to a place and garrison it / (figurative) to establish a presence in

Parts:

jìn - advance / make progress / go ahead / move forward / proceed / improve / improvement / enter / to come (or go) into / to receive or admit / to eat or drink / to submit or present / recommend / introduce / offer (advice, presents, gifts, etc.) / generation / income / (after a verb) into, in / to score a goal / rooms in a house divided by a courtyard / courtyard / take / have

zhù - to halt / to stay / to stop / to be stationed (of troops, diplomats, etc.) / to be posted / based in / reside at or in

*Note: a variant of the first character is 駐

肥沃

May 26, 2014

Japanese Romaji: hiyoku

Japanese Meaning: fertility / richness (of soil) / productive / high yield

Parts:

hi(ko, koe, goe, futo) - fertile / fertilizer / fertiliser / manure / dung / night soil / pamper / get fat

yoku(you) - fertility

Chinese Pinyin: féiwò

Chinese Meaning: fertile (land)

Parts:

féi - fat / plump / obese / portly / corpulent / fat (of meat) / sufficiency / affluence / plenty / fertile / to fertilize / fertilizer / manure / loose-fitting / large / baggy / to become rich by illegal means

wò - fertile / rich (soil) / to irrigate / to water / to wash (of river)

海浜/濱

May 27, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kaihin

Japanese Meaning: seaside / the beach / the seashore / beachside

Parts:

kai(umi) - ocean / sea / beach / maritime

hin(hama) - beach / seacoast / seashore

*Note 1: 海苔 (edible seaweed) is read as “nori”; 海胆 (sea urchin) is read as “uni”; 海老 (prawn, shrimp, or lobster”, etc.) is read as “ebi”; 海豹 (seal [animal]) is read as “azarashi”; 海豚 (dolphin) is read as “iruka”; 海獺/海獺 (sea otter) is read as “rakko”

Chinese Pinyin: hǎibīn

Chinese Meaning: shore / seaside / seashore / waterfront / beach

Parts:

hǎi - ocean / sea / maritime / a huge gathering (of people, etc.) / great number of people or things coming together / area / field / great / unlimited

bīn - shore / beach / sea coast / river bank / brink / to border on / be close to

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the second character is also a separate traditional Chinese character (bāng: stream / creek)

*Note 3: another variant of the second character is 濱

羞恥

May 28, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shuuchi

Japanese Meaning: shame / shyness / bashfulness

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 害羞 (hàixiū) or 害臊 (hàisào) for “shyness” or “bashfulness”

Parts:

shuu(ha, haji) - feel ashamed

chi(ha, haji, paji) - shame / embarrassment / dishonor

Chinese Pinyin: xiūchǐ

Chinese Meaning: (a feeling of) shame / a sense of shame

Parts:

xiū - shy / ashamed / bashful / embarrassed / shame / shameful / disgraceful

chǐ - shame / disgrace / humiliation / ashamed / dishonor / dishonour / feel humiliated / feel disgraced

*Note: the first character is also a variant of 饑

遞減/遞

May 29, 2014

Japanese Romaji: teigen

Japanese Meaning: gradual decrease / successive diminution

Parts:

tei - in turn / to relay / sending

gen(he, me) - decline / decrease / curtail / dwindle / reduce / reduction / get hungry

Chinese Pinyin: dìjiǎn

Chinese Meaning: progressively decreasing / gradually falling / in descending order / to decrease or reduce progressively / to diminish / to decrease by degrees

Parts:

dì - to hand over / to deliver / to forward / substitute / to pass on something / to gradually increase or decrease / progressively / successively / in the proper order

jiǎn - to lower / to decrease / to reduce / deduct / to subtract / minus / to cut / to diminish

上唇

May 30, 2014

Japanese Romaji: uwakuchibiru / joushin

Japanese Meaning: upper lip / (joushin) labrum (an upper labium of an insect) / (joushin) epichile (an upper petal of a flower)

Parts:

uwa(a, ue, kami, nobo, shan, jou, shou) - above / up / upper / upward / outer / over / summit / top / surface / in / on / before / previous / superiority / elder (e.g. sibling) / one's superior / one's elder / on top of that / besides / what's more / upon (further inspection, etc.) / based on (and occurring after) / matters concerning... / as concerns... / since (for that reason) / suffix indicating higher social standing / (archaism) place of one's superior (i.e. the throne) / (archaism) emperor / sovereign / shogun / daimyo / (archaism) noblewoman (especially the wife of a nobleman) / upper reaches (of a river) / upper stream / upper part / upper half (of body) / long ago / beginning / the start / first (of multiple parts) / person of high rank (e.g. emperor) / government / governmental / imperial / imperial court / imperial capital (i.e. Kyoto) / capital region (i.e. Kansai) / region (or direction of) the imperial palace / head (of a table) / (honorific) wife / mistress (of a restaurant) / from the standpoint of / as a matter of (fact) / in the field of / being a type of / aboard (a ship or vehicle) / on top of / first volume (e.g. book) / superior quality / best / high class / going up / presenting / showing / ana- (medical, biology)

kuchibiru(shin, kuchi, guchi) - lips

*Note 1: the verb 逆上せる (“to feel dizzy”, “to have blood rush to one’s head”, or “to become conceited (it’s gone to his/her head)”) is read as “noboseru”; the reading of 上手い (which has several meanings such as “skillful”, “fortunate”, “delicious”, etc.) is “umai”. (Not to be confused with 上手 (skillful), which is usually read as “jouzu”).

Chinese Pinyin: shàngchún

Chinese Meaning: upper lip / labrum (an upper labium of an insect) / epichile (an upper petal of a flower)

Parts:

shàng(shǎng) - above / up / upward / to (a higher level) / on top / summit / on / in / regarding / over / upon / upper / higher / high place / previous / last / preceding / former / prior / first (of multiple parts) / before / to climb / to get onto / ascend / mount / board / to go up / send up / to attend (class or university) / go to / leave for (a place) / to go to court / to present / superior / senior / highest / best / better / emperor / affix / fit / install / apply / put on / place in position / be as many as / be up to / reach / appear on stage / enter the field / to put on record / be published / screw / tighten / twist / to wind / wind up / (verb particle indicating direction or achievement) / (phonetics) rising tone or fall-rising tone / (mahjong) chow / call to create a run/sequence

chún - lips / lip-shaped thing / labial

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 上. A variant of the second character is 唇.

奨励/奨勵

May 31, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shourei

Japanese Meaning: encouragement / promotion / message / address / inducement / incitement / stimulation / incentive

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 鼓勵 (gǔlì)

Parts:

shou(susu) - encourage / urge / exhort

rei(hage) - be diligent / encourage / inspire

Chinese Pinyin: jiǎnglì

Chinese Meaning: to reward / reward (as encouragement) / to encourage by rewards / incentive / to give as incentive or encouragement

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 賞 (shou) or 褒美 (gohoubi)

Parts:

jiǎng - prize / award / reward / give award to / praise / commend / encourage / encouragement

lì - to encourage / to urge / strive for / incite / exert oneself

*Note 1: the Japanese term is more general in meaning “encouragement” while the Chinese term more specifically refers to “rewards” which may be encouraging something.

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 3: another variant of the first character is 獎

妨害

May 31, 2014

Japanese Romaji: bougai

Japanese Meaning: disturbance / obstruction / hindrance / jamming / interference / blockage / interruption / thwart / standing in the way

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 阻礙 (zǔ'ài) or 妨礙 (fáng'ài); see note

Parts:

bou(samata) - disturb / to hamper / obstruct / prevent

gai - injury / harm / damage / evil influence

Chinese Pinyin: fánghài

Chinese Meaning: to impair / damaging / to be harmful to / a nuisance / hinder / interfere with

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 損なう (sokonau); see note

Parts:

fáng - to hinder / interfere with / obstruct / impede / undermine / harm / (in the negative or interrogative) (no) harm / (what) harm

hài - to do harm to / to cause trouble to / injure / harm / harmful / destructive / injurious / destroy / kill / murder / assassinate / evil / bad / disadvantage / calamity / disaster / damage / to damage / pest / scourge / contract (illness) / suffer from / feel (afraid, astonished, etc.)

*Note: the main difference is that the Japanese meaning tends towards “obstruction” or “interference” whereas the Chinese meaning tends towards “damaging” or “harmful”. Some cases where the meanings intersect could include “damage” or “disturbance” caused by “obstruction” (e.g. blocking traffic, blocking police work, disturbing someone, etc.)

輻射

June 1, 2014

Japanese Romaji: fukusha

Japanese Meaning: radiation / to radiate

Parts:

fuku(ya) - spoke (wheel)

sha(i, u, sa, za, shi) - archery / shoot / mapping / onto / shine onto / (math) map, morphism, arrow

Chinese Pinyin: fúshè

Chinese Meaning: radiation / to radiate / irradiation

Parts:

fú - spoke of a wheel

shè - to shoot / to launch / to fire / to discharge / eject / to spout / issue forth / emit / give forth / send out (light, heat, etc.) / to allude to / refer to / insinuate / radio- (chemistry) / (archaic) archery

*Note 1: in Japanese, radiation is more commonly referred to as 放射 (housha). In Chinese, this word can also be written as 幅射

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 𪛗

皓齒/齒

June 2, 2014

Japanese Romaji: koushi

Japanese Meaning: pearly white teeth

Parts:

kou - clear / white

shi(ha, ba) - tooth / teeth / gears / cogs

Chinese Pinyin: hàochǐ

Chinese Meaning: white teeth (symbol of youth and beauty) / sparkling teeth

Parts:

hào - bright / luminous / clear / white (especially bright white teeth of youth or white hair of old age) / hoary

chǐ - tooth / teeth / gears / cogs / a tooth-like part of anything / age / speak of / mention

*Note: 2 variants of the first character are 皓 and 皜

勅令/敕

June 3, 2014

Japanese Romaji: chokurei

Japanese Meaning: imperial ordinance (order, decree, edict) / a Royal command

Parts:

choku(mikotonori) - imperial order / imperial decree / imperial edict

rei(ryou) - command / decree / orders / dictation / (archaism) administrative and civil code / ancient laws

Chinese Pinyin: chiling

Chinese Meaning: an imperial decree, edict, command, or ordinance

Parts:

chì - imperial orders / imperial decree / imperial edict / admonish / warn / caution

lìng(lǐng, líng) - to order / to command / decree / an order / directive / warrant / writ / to cause / to allow / to make something happen / arouse / virtuous / nice / good / excellent / commandant / magistrate / government position (old) / ancient official title / honorific title / your esteemed / your good / beautiful / season / short song set to a fixed tune / counter for a ream of paper

*Note: another variant of the first character is 勅

瑞獸/獸

June 4, 2014

Japanese Romaji: zuijuu

Japanese Meaning: auspicious beast or animal (i.e. dragon, qilin, etc.)

Parts:

zui(mizu, sui) - congratulations / good omen / (archaism) youth, freshness, purity, luster, lustre, beauty / (Abbreviation) Swiss, Sweden

juu(kedamono, kemono) - animal / beast / brute / animal covered in fur

Chinese Pinyin: ruìshòu

Chinese Meaning: auspicious beast or animal (i.e. dragon, qilin, etc.)

Parts:

ruì - lucky / auspicious / propitious / fortunate / felicitous omen / rayl (acoustical unit)

shòu - beast / animal / beastly / bestial / brutal

潟湖

June 5, 2014

Japanese Romaji: sekiko

Japanese Meaning: lagoon

Parts:

seki(kata, gata) - lagoon

ko(mizuumi) - lake / a body of water surrounded by land

Chinese Pinyin: xīhú

Chinese Meaning: lagoon

Parts:

xì - saline land / salt marsh / land impregnated with salt from the tide

hú - lake / bluish-green

*Note: a variant of the first character is 瀉

憑依

June 6, 2014

Japanese Romaji: hyoui

Japanese Meaning: possession (by a spirit, etc.) / dependence / depending on

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 附身 (fùshēn) for the meaning of "spirit possession"

Parts:

hyou(tano, tsu, gaka, pyou) - according to / depend / rely / evidence / proof / haunt / possess

i(yo, e) - depend on / due to / reliant / therefore / consequently

Chinese Pinyin: píngyī

Chinese Meaning: to rely on / to depend on / to lean upon / to base oneself on

Parts:

píng - to lean against / lean on / prop oneself on / support oneself on / to rely on / depend on / on the basis of / by virtue of / in light of / no matter (how, what, where, when, etc.) / proof / evidence / guarantee

yī - to depend on / rely on / count on / be set in / lean on / rest on / attach to / to comply with / consent / obey a wish / to listen to somebody / yield to / according to / in the light of / judging by

*Note 1: the simplified Chinese version of the first character (凭) is also a separate Japanese character

*Note 2: 3 variants of the first character are 憑憑馮

指摘

June 7, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shiteki

Japanese Meaning: pointing out / identification / indication / put one's finger on something

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 指出 (zhǐchū), see note

Parts:

shi(sa, yubi) - finger / toe / digit / indicate / point to / put into / measure (ruler) / play (chess)

teki(tsu, tsuma) - pick / pinch / clip / pluck / trim / summarize

Chinese Pinyin: zhǐzhāi

Chinese Meaning: to point out the faults of another / to criticize / to blame / accusation / censure

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 指出 (tekishutsu), 弾劾 (dangai), 非難 (hinan), see note

Parts:

zhǐ - finger / toe / to point at or to / to indicate / to direct / to refer to / to mean / to depend on / to count on / (of hair) to stand on end / number of people / intentions / main theme / hope

zhāi - to take / to borrow / to pick (flowers, fruit, etc.) / to pluck / to select / to specify / to remove / to take off (glasses, hat, etc.)

*Note: in general, both Japanese and Chinese can mean "to point out" things such as mistakes, faults, errors, etc. The Chinese term tends to sound harsher since it also includes the meanings of "criticising", "censure", and "blame".

濁流

June 7, 2014

Japanese Romaji: dakuryuu

Japanese Meaning: a (rapid) muddy stream / turbid waters (of a river) / muddy current or flow / dirty fluid

Parts:

daku(nigo, joku, dami, dobu) - impurity / uncleanness / nigori / voiced / wrong

ryuu(naga, ru) - flow / current / a sink / forfeit / style of / method of / manner of / school (of thought)

*Note: in Japanese, 流離う (to wander) is read as "sasurau"; 流行る (to spread; to become popular, etc.) is read as "hayaru".

Chinese Pinyin: zhuóliú

Chinese Meaning: turbid flow / a turbid stream / muddy waters

Parts:

zhuó - turbid / muddy / impure / dirty / filthy / deep and thick / raucous (voice) / chaotic / confused / corrupted / (Cantonese) choke

liú - to flow / to disseminate / to circulate / to spread / to discharge / to move / to drift / to wander / to stray / to degenerate / to banish / to send into exile / stream of water or something resembling one / class / rate / rank / grade / branch / division / unsettled / unfixed / mobile / style of / (Cantonese) untrue, false, inferior quality

三頁

June 8, 2014

Japanese Romaji: sanpeiji

Japanese Meaning: three (pages)

Parts:

san(mi, mitsu) - three / tri-

peiji(ketsu, oogai, you) - page (in books, web sites, etc.) / leaf

*Note 1: in Japanese, as a counter for pages the second character is often written as ページ. On computers, the kanji (or ペー) is preferred when there is a character limit.

Chinese Pinyin: sānyè

Chinese Meaning: three (pages)

Parts:

sān - three / third / thrice / several / many / few

yè - page (in books, web sites, etc.) / leaf / sheet

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 弎

*Note 3: The pages say:

1) I don't know

2) what to draw...

3) ...eh? The heck is this??!!

隕石

June 9, 2014

Japanese Romaji: inseki

Japanese Meaning: meteorite

Parts:

in - to fall

seki(ishi, koku, shaku) - stone / rock / gem / jewel / measure of volume (approx. 180.39 liters, 6.37 cub. ft.) / measure of a Japanese-style boat's loading capacity (approx. 278.26 liters)

Chinese Pinyin: yǔnshí

Chinese Meaning: meteorite / aerolite

Parts:

yǔn - to fall / to slip / let fall / die / to perish / meteor / fall from the sky or outer space

shí(dàn) - stone / rock / mineral / gem / jewel / stone tablets / medicines / calculus (as a kidney calculus, kidney stone) / stone inscription / barren (as a barren woman) / one of the eight ancient musical instruments 八音 / dry measure for grain equal to ten dou 斗 / ten pecks / one hundred liters

*Note 1: in English, a meteorite is space debris which survived its impact with the Earth. While still in space it is a meteoroid (J: 流星物質 “ryuuseibussitu” or 流星体 “ryuuseitai” / C: 流星體 “liúxīngtǐ”); while burning through Earth’s atmosphere it is a meteor or shooting star (J/C: 流星 “ryuusei” / “liúxīng”).

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 隕 A variant of the second character is 否

内需/内

June 10, 2014

Japanese Romaji: naiju

Japanese Meaning: domestic demand

Parts:

nai(uchi, dai) - inside / within / while / during / inside or within a span of time / among / amongst / between / home / house / we (referring to one's in-group) / our / my / one's own / spouse / (archaism) imperial palace grounds / (archaism) emperor / (Kansai dialect) I (primarily used by women and children), me

ju - demand / need / request

Chinese Pinyin: nèixū

Chinese Meaning: domestic demand

Parts:

nèi - inside / inner / interior / internal / within / domestic / heart / mind / internals / one's wife / wife's relatives / imperial palace

xū - to require / to need / to want / demand / necessity / necessities / needs / must

*Note: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character. The subtle difference between the versions is in the curves at the top of the characters (similar to 人 and 入)

乾坤

June 11, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kenkon

Japanese Meaning: heaven and earth / universe / Yin and Yang (male and female, sun and moon, light and dark, etc.) / two of the trigrams of the Book of Changes (I Ching)

Parts:

ken(kawa, hi, ho, hoshi, kan, gen, inui) - dry / arid / drought / desiccate / drink up / emperor / heaven /

qian (one of the trigrams of the I Ching: heaven, northwest, male principle, ☰)

kon(hitsujisaru) - earth / land / divination sign / kun (one of the trigrams of the I Ching: earth, southwest, female principle, ☷)

*Note 1: in Japanese, the phrase 乾坤一擲 (kenkon'itteki) means "to stake all (on something)", "play for all or nothing", "throwing all into a task", "gamble everything", etc.

Chinese Pinyin: qiánkūn

Chinese Meaning: Heaven and earth / The Universe / Yin and Yang (male and female, sun and moon, light and dark, etc.) / two of the trigrams of the Book of Changes (I Ching)

Parts:

qián(gān) - dry / arid / dried up / drained off / exhausted / desiccate / drink up / drink all / empty / clean / dried food, vegetable, fruit / foster / adoptive / adopted / not related by blood / in vain / vainly /

helplessly / doing nothing / for nothing / to ignore / qian (one of the trigrams of the I Ching: heaven, northwest, male principle, ☰) / first hexagram of the I Ching / warming principle of the sun, penetrating and fertilizing, heavenly generative principle (male)

kūn - kun (one of the trigrams of the I Ching: earth, southwest, female principle, ☷) / second hexagram of the I Ching / female / feminine / women's / (Cantonese) to trick, to fool, cheat, lure

*Note 2: both characters in this word are part of a group of eight which refer to a trigram in the 八卦 (bāguà) of Taoist cosmology and represents the fundamental principles of reality. The eight characters are: 乾兌離震巽坎艮坤. There are also 64 hexagrams based on these eight and they are described in the Chinese classical text known as the I Ching (易經, Yìjīng, Book of Changes). For further information, see the links below:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ba_guahttp://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_Ching

*Note 3: 乾杯 (kanpai, gānbēi) is said during toasts. The English equivalents are "cheers!" or "bottoms up!" It literally means "a dry glass".

*Note 4: the simplified Chinese version of the first character (干) is also a separate traditional Chinese character and the simplified Chinese version of 幹

*Note 5: 2 variants of the first character are 𤰪 and 乾 A variant of the second character is 𤰪

炉边/爐邊

June 12, 2014

Japanese Romaji: rohen

Japanese Meaning: fireside

Parts:

ro - hearth / fireplace / furnace / kiln / reactor

hen(ata, he, be, hoto, pen) - area / vicinity / environs / side (of a shape) / edge / border / boundary / circumstances / shore (of the sea) / suffix used as a rough indicator of location, direction, time, etc. / (archaism) surrounding area

Chinese Pinyin: lúbiān

Chinese Meaning: fireside / a hearth

Parts:

lú - stove / oven / furnace / fireplace / hearth

biān(bian) - side / edge / end of something / margin / verge / border / boundary / limits / bounds / border of a nation's territory / hem / decorative border / nearby / near to / simultaneously / suffix of a noun of locality / (Cantonese) which, where

*Note 1: the picture is of an 囲炉裏 (irori), a traditional sunken hearth used in Japan.

*Note 2: another variant of the first character is 鑪 (which is also a separate Chinese character).

Another variant of the second character is 邊

瀕死

June 13, 2014

Japanese Romaji: hinshi

Japanese Meaning: dying / (on the) verge of death / being moribund

Parts:

hin - brink / verge / shore

shi(ji) - death / die / dying / decease / (archaism) death penalty (by strangulation or decapitation)

Chinese Pinyin: bīnsǐ

Chinese Meaning: nearing death / on the brink of death / on the point of demise / approaching extinction

Parts:

bīn - to approach / on the brink of / be on the verge of / to border on / be on the point of / near / be close to / border on / overlook

sǐ - to die / dead / death / impassable / uncrossable / closed / blocked / inflexible / rigid / dogmatic / fixed / unchangeable (regulations, etc.) / immovable (drawers, etc.) / extremely / terribly / unusually / very / condemned / inanimate / dull and stupid / persevering / resolute / resolutely / desperately / stubbornly / irreconcilable / implacable / deadly

精緻

June 14, 2014

Japanese Romaji: seichi

Japanese Meaning: delicate / fine / minute / detailed / subtle / minuteness / subtlety

Parts:

sei(kuwa, shira, shou) - fairy / nymph / sprite / spirit / ghost / energy / vigor / vigour / essence / strength / vitality / life force / one's emotions, mind, or soul / semen / purity / pure / refined / polished / fine details / detailed / conscientious / care / skill / excellence / polished or milled rice

chi - fine (i.e. not coarse)

Chinese Pinyin: jīngzhì

Chinese Meaning: (said of materials, etc.) delicate / fine / exquisite / refined / delicacy

Parts:

jīng(jing) - essence / the essentials / best / extract / concentrate / vitality / energy / vigor / vigour / spirit / goblin / spirit / mythical goblin spirit / demon / semen / sperm / seed / very / extremely / completely / highly perfected / elite / the pick of something / dedicated / intensive / proficient (refined ability) / keen / smart / sharp / clever / skilled / versed / specialize in / exquisite / extremely (fine) / delicate / polished / refined / choice / polished rice / unmixed rice / selected rice (archaic) / (Cantonese) smart or bright

zhì - fine (i.e. not coarse) / delicate / dense / close

*Note: the simplified Chinese version of the second character (致) is also a separate character in Japanese and traditional Chinese.

全般

June 14, 2014

Japanese Romaji: zenpan

Japanese Meaning: (the) whole / overall / wholly / general / universal

Parts:

zen(sube, matta) - all / complete / entire / whole / overall / fulfill / pan- / omni- / toti-

pan(han) - all / carrier / carry

Chinese Pinyin: quánbān

Chinese Meaning: entire / all / general

Parts:

quán -perfect / all / complete / entire / every / everything / whole / total / intact / absolute / maintain /
to keep whole or intact

bān(pán, bō) - sort / type / kind / class / category / manner / way / as / like / same as / joy / delight /
(Buddhism) Prajñā (in Sanskrit), highest wisdom, understanding

剥奪/剥

June 15, 2014

Japanese Romaji: hakudatsu

Japanese Meaning: deprivation / divestiture / revocation / strip (somebody of his property, rights, etc.)

Parts:

haku(ha, pa, he, mu, hezu, suki) - come off / coming off / discolor / discolored / discoloured / fade / faded / peel / peeling off / being worn off

datsum(uba) - dispossess / plunder / to rob / snatch away / take by force / usurp

Chinese Pinyin: bōduó

Chinese Meaning: to deprive / to expropriate / to strip (somebody of his property, rights, etc.)

Parts:

bō(bāo) - to peel / peel off / to skin / to strip / to flay / to shuck / to shell / to hull / to husk

duó - to seize / to take away forcibly / to rob / snatch / to wrest control of / to compete / contend / strive for / decide / determine / settle / to force one's way through / (of words in text) to leave out / to lose / deprive / abolish

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 斂

近畿

June 16, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kinki

Japanese Meaning: Kinki (region around Osaka, Kyoto, Nara) (alternative name for Kansai Region in Japan)

Parts:

kin(chika, djika, kon) - near / nearby / close / early / akin / tantamount

ki - capital / suburbs of capital

Chinese Pinyin: jìnjī

Chinese Meaning: Kinki (region around Osaka, Kyoto, Nara) (alternative name for Kansai Region in Japan)

Parts:

jìn - near / close (in space) / close (in time) / nearby / neighboring / neighbouring / immediate / recent / close (in abstract relation) / intimate / closely related / approximately / approach / approximate / approaching

jī - territory around the capital / imperial domain / area near capital / vicinity or environs of a capital

範疇

June 17, 2014

Japanese Romaji: hanchuu

Japanese Meaning: category

Parts:

han(pan) - example / model / pattern

chuu - same kind / companion / before

Chinese Pinyin: fànchóu

Chinese Meaning: category / domain / scope

Parts:

fàn - pattern / model / example / paradigm / boundary / limits / scope / rule / law / control / restrict /
keep watch / mould / matrix

chóu - arable fields / arable land / cultivated field / agricultural farmland / classification / class / category
/ type

*Note: the simplified Chinese version of the first character 范 is also a separate traditional character

貧窮

June 18, 2014

Japanese Romaji: hinkyuu

Japanese Meaning: great poverty

Parts:

hin(mazu, bin, pin) - poor / poverty

kyuu(kiwa) - destitute / hard up / cornered / perplexed / suffer

Chinese Pinyin: pínqióng

Chinese Meaning: poor / impoverished / poverty / impoverishment / destitution / penury / needy

Parts:

pín - poor / impoverished / destitute / needy / inadequate / insufficient / deficient / garrulous / talkative / lack / be short of / need / require / a term of humble self-address for a monk, nun, etc.

qióng - destitute / poor / poverty-stricken / impoverished / exhausted / to use up / having an end / having a limit / most / extremely / utterly / thoroughly / exhaustively / completely / thoroughly examine / completely look into / in trouble / without any way out

*Note: a variant of the second character is 窮

既得

June 19, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kitoku

Japanese Meaning: vested / already acquired

Parts:

ki(sude, sunde) - already / long ago / previously

toku(u, e, doku) - able to / can / may / acquire / gain / get / earn / profit / find / advantage / benefit

Chinese Pinyin: jìdé

Chinese Meaning: vested in / already obtained / vesting

Parts:

jì - already / de facto / since / now that / as / then / both...(and...) / as well as

dé(děi, de) - to obtain / to get / to gain / acquire / to catch (a disease) / proper / suitable / to fit / to suit / proud / contented / satisfied / complacent / to allow / to permit / be ready / be finished / All right! / to have to / must / ought to / to need to / take / structural particle: used after a verb (or adjective as main verb), linking it to following phrase indicating effect, degree, possibility, etc.

*Note: a variant of the first character is 既

摂政/攝

June 20, 2014

Japanese Romaji: sesshou

Japanese Meaning: regent / regency (governing in place of a monarch)

Parts:

setsu(to) - surrogate / vicarious / act in addition to

shou(matsurigoto, man, sei) - government / politics / rule

Chinese Pinyin: shèzhèng

Chinese Meaning: regent / to act or serve as a regent (to govern in place of a monarch)

Parts:

shè - to take in / to absorb / to assimilate / to act for / act as deputy / administer / assist / to take a photograph / to take a shot of / photo shoot / photo / to conserve (one's health) / (Cantonese) to wedge, insert, or block up

zhèng - political affairs / politics / political power / government / administration / management / administrative affairs of a government department / affairs of a family or an organization

捜査/搜查

June 21, 2014

Japanese Romaji: sousa

Japanese Meaning: an investigation / a search / a manhunt

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 調查 (diàochá); see note

Parts:

sou(saga) - search / look for / locate

sa - investigate

Chinese Pinyin: sōuchá

Chinese Meaning: to search (a house, a person, etc.) / to raid (in order to find evidence)

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 搜索 (sousaku); see note

Parts:

sōu - to search / seek / hunt / frisk / ransack / investigate / look for / explore

chá(zhā) - to investigate / inspect / to research / to check / to examine / to refer to / to search / seek into / look into / consult / look up

*Note: this term is mostly used in contexts of criminal investigations. The main difference between Japanese and Chinese is that the Chinese term usually refers to physically searching for someone or something tangible while the Japanese term is more general and can also include searching for information (intangible).

無辜

June 21, 2014

Japanese Romaji: muko

Japanese Meaning: innocent / blameless

Parts:

mu(na, bu) - not / none / no / nothing / nothingness / nil / naught / ain't / nought / zero / un- / non- /
bad... / poor... / (Buddhism) The null set: neither yes nor no (in response to a koan or other question that
mistakenly assumes an affirmative or negative answer)

ko - crime / sin

Chinese Pinyin: wúgū

Chinese Meaning: innocent / innocence / guiltless / not guilty (law) / an innocent person

Parts:

wú - not / none / no / to lack / not to have / have no / have not / un- / non- / -less / negative / without /
destitute of / wanting / no matter what (or how) / not yet

gū - crime / sin / guilt / criminal offense / let down / be unworthy of / disappoint

*Note: a variant of the first character is 無

財閥

June 22, 2014

Japanese Romaji: zaibatsu

Japanese Meaning: plutocrats / financial clique / zaibatsu (Japanese) / chaebol (Korean)

Parts:

zai(takara, sai) - money / wealth / fortune / riches / assets / property / goods / treasure / (abbreviation)
incorporated foundation

batsu - clan / clique / faction / lineage / pedigree

Chinese Pinyin: cáifá

Chinese Meaning: plutocracy / business conglomerate / monopolistic corporation (especially prewar Japanese zaibatsu) / Korean chaebol / plutocrat / tycoon / oligarch / financial magnate

Parts:

cái - money / wealth / riches / property / valuables

fá - powerful and influential individual, family or group / meritorious or distinguished family in feudal times / clique / (loanword) valve

*Note: a variant of the first character is 賤

前哨

June 23, 2014

Japanese Romaji: zenshou

Japanese Meaning: an outpost / an advanced post

Parts:

zen(mae, saki, sen) - in front of / before (in time or place, e.g. before the house) / ago / some time ago / earlier / (minutes) to (the hour) / the last (i.e. immediately preceding, the last mayor, etc.) / previous / prior / previously / preceding / the past / one-time / former / pre- (era, e.g. pre-modern) / head (of a line) / front (of an object) / fore part / point (e.g. of a pencil) / tip (of something) / end / nozzle / ahead / the other side / the future / hereafter / afterwards / destination / the other party / in the presence of / a helping / a portion / an amount / privates / private parts

shou - scout / sentinel

Chinese Pinyin: qiánshào

Chinese Meaning: an outpost / a sentry / an outguard / an advance guard

Parts:

qián - front / in front / forward / ahead / ago / before / first / top (followed by a number) / previous / former / preceding / formerly / past / of earlier times / future / advance / proceed / progress / precede / B.C. (Before Christ)

shào - a whistle / blow whistle / (of birds) chirp / warble / sentry post / patrol / outpost

凱歌

June 24, 2014

Japanese Romaji: gaika

Japanese Meaning: victory song / triumphal song / victory

Parts:

gai - victory song

ka(uta) - song / sing / modern poetry / classical Japanese poetry

Chinese Pinyin: kǎigē

Chinese Meaning: victory song / song of triumph / paeon / triumphal hymn

Parts:

kǎi - triumphant / triumph / victory / victorious / chi (Greek letter Xχ)

gē - song / to sing / lyrics / chant / praise / poems with rhythms and rhymes suitable for use as lyrics in songs

*Note: a variant of the first character is 豈 (which is also a separate character). A variant of the second character is 謳

赴任

June 25, 2014

Japanese Romaji: funin

Japanese Meaning: leaving for one's new post / moving to a different location to start a new job / (proceeding to) new appointment / taking up a new post

Parts:

fu(omomu) - become / tend / get / proceed

nin(maka) - obligation / duty / charge / responsibility / appoint / entrust to / term

Chinese Pinyin: fùrèn

Chinese Meaning: to travel to take up a new post / to proceed to one's new post / taking up a new post / depart for one's new post

Parts:

fù - to go to / proceed to / journey to / to visit (e.g. another country) / to attend (a banquet, etc.) / be present

rèn - responsibility / to assign / to appoint / nominate / to take up a post / assume (a position) / hold / to bear / duty / official post / office / term / to let / trust to / rely on / to allow / to give free reign to / no matter (what, how, etc.)

猫娘/貓

June 26, 2014

Japanese Romaji: nekomusume

Japanese Meaning: catgirl / character who looks, acts, etc. like a cat

Parts:

neko(byou, myou) - cat / shamisen / geisha / (abbreviation) wheelbarrow / (abbreviation) clay bed-warmer

musume(ko, jou) - (one's own) daughter / female child / girl (i.e. a young, unmarried woman) / (after a name) Miss / (after a line of work) -ess, -ette

Chinese Pinyin: māoniáng

Chinese Meaning: catgirl / character who looks, acts, etc. like a cat

Parts:

māo - cat

niáng(niang) - mother / mom / mum / ma / wife / aunt (a form of addressing an elderly married woman)
young woman / young girl / young lady

*Note 1: this term can refer to either (1) a creature that can transform between a cat and a girl (a specific form of the mythical Bakeneko) or (2) characters in Japanese popular culture depicted as girls with cat-like features.

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 3: in Chinese, a variant of the second character is 孃. The Japanese variant of that variant is a separate Japanese character (嬢 "jou") which describes older but unmarried women. While the second character in today's word can have the same "jou" reading, it is more commonly read as "musume" to describe younger girls.

壬申

June 27, 2014

Japanese Romaji: jinshin / mizunoesaru

Japanese Meaning: ninth year of the sexagenary cycle (e.g. 2052)

Parts:

jin(mizunoe) - ninth sign of the Chinese calendar / ninth in rank

shin(saru, mou) - have the honor to / sign of the monkey (zodiac) / ninth sign of the Chinese zodiac

Chinese Pinyin: rénshēn

Chinese Meaning: ninth year of the sexagenary cycle (e.g. 2052)

Parts:

rén - ninth sign of the Chinese calendar / ninth in order / nona-

shēn - to extend / expand / explain / set forth / to state (to a superior) / to report / to explain / sign of the monkey (zodiac) / ninth sign of the Chinese zodiac / old name for Shanghai

*Note: this term is used in the Chinese sexagenary (60-year) cycle as an ancient form of time-keeping. The "10 Heavenly Stems" (甲乙丙丁戊己庚辛壬癸) combine with the "12 Earthly Branches" (子丑寅卯辰巳午未申酉戌亥) to form a cycle of 60 pairs with each one denoting a specific year in the Chinese calendar and repeats every 60 years. The 10 stems can correspond to one of five elements (wood, fire, earth, metal, water) and the 12 branches each correspond to an animal in the Chinese zodiac. Further details are at the link below:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexagenary_cycle

辛丑

June 27, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shinchuu / kanotoushi

Japanese Meaning: thirty-eighth year of the sexagenary cycle (e.g. 2021)

Parts:

shin(kanoto, kara, gara, karo, tsura, dzura) - spicy / hot / acrid / bitter / eighth sign of the Chinese calendar / eighth in rank

chuu(ushi) - sign of the ox or cow (zodiac) / second sign of the Chinese zodiac

Chinese Pinyin: xīnchǒu

Chinese Meaning: thirty-eighth year of the sexagenary cycle (e.g. 2021)

Parts:

xīn - hot (spicy) flavor / pungent / piquant / fiery / acrid / bitter / hard / laborious / toilsome / suffering / miserable / sad / eighth sign of the Chinese calendar / eighth in order / octa-

chǒu - clown / comedian / sign of the ox or cow (zodiac) / second sign of the Chinese zodiac

*Note 1: this term is used in the Chinese sexagenary (60-year) cycle as an ancient form of time-keeping. The “10 Heavenly Stems” (甲乙丙丁戊己庚辛壬癸) combine with the “12 Earthly Branches” (子丑寅卯辰巳午未申酉戌亥) to form a cycle of 60 pairs with each one denoting a specific year in the Chinese calendar and repeats every 60 years. The 10 stems can correspond to one of five elements (wood, fire, earth, metal, water) and the 12 branches each correspond to an animal in the Chinese zodiac. Further details are at the link below:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexagenary_cycle

*Note 2: the second character is also the simplified Chinese version of 醜 (which has a variant 𪛗)

丁亥

June 28, 2014

Japanese Romaji: teigai / hinotoi

Japanese Meaning: twenty-fourth year of the sexagenary cycle (e.g. 2067)

Parts:

tei(hinoto, chou, tou) - street / town / ward / even number / counter for sheets, pages, leaves, etc. / counter for blocks of tofu or a cake of something / counter for servings in a restaurant / counter for long and narrow things such as guns, scissors, spades, hoes, ink sticks, palanquins, candles, jinrikishas, shamisen, oars, tools, etc. / 109.09 m / fourth sign of the Chinese calendar / fourth in rank
gai(i) - sign of the hog or boar (zodiac) / twelfth sign of the Chinese zodiac

*Note 1: in Japanese, the reading of 丁稚 (apprentice) is “detchi”

Chinese Pinyin: dīnghài

Chinese Meaning: twenty-fourth year of the sexagenary cycle (e.g. 2067)

Parts:

dīng - male adult / man / robust / vigorous / population / members of a family / manual worker / attendant / fourth in order / fourth in a list / grade D / cubes (of food, meat, vegetables, etc.) / small / tiny bit / T-shaped / tinkling sound / butyl / fourth sign of the Chinese calendar
hài - sign of the hog or boar (zodiac) / twelfth sign of the Chinese zodiac

*Note 2: this term is used in the Chinese sexagenary (60-year) cycle as an ancient form of time-keeping. The “10 Heavenly Stems” (甲乙丙丁戊己庚辛壬癸) combine with the “12 Earthly Branches” (子丑寅卯辰巳午未申酉戌亥) to form a cycle of 60 pairs with each one denoting a specific year in the Chinese calendar and repeats every 60 years. The 10 stems can correspond to one of five elements (wood, fire, earth, metal, water) and the 12 branches each correspond to an animal in the Chinese zodiac. Further details are at the link below:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexagenary_cycle

己酉

June 28, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kiyuu / tsuchinototori

Japanese Meaning: forty-sixth year of the sexagenary cycle (e.g. 2029)

Parts:

ki(ko, tsuchinoto, onore, na) - self / (archaism) I / (archaism) oneself (itself, etc.) / (humble) I (or me) / (derogatory) you / by oneself (itself, etc.) / interjection expressing anger or chagrin / serpent / snake / sixth sign of the Chinese calendar / sixth in rank

yuu(tori) - bird / sake radical / west / sign of the bird or rooster (zodiac) / tenth sign of the Chinese zodiac

Chinese Pinyin: jǐyǒu

Chinese Meaning: forty-sixth year of the sexagenary cycle (e.g. 2029)

Parts:

jǐ - oneself / self / one's own / personal / private / sixth in order / hexa / sixth sign of the Chinese calendar

yǒu - a wine vessel / wine radical / sign of the rooster (zodiac) / tenth sign of the Chinese zodiac

*Note 1: this term is used in the Chinese sexagenary (60-year) cycle as an ancient form of time-keeping. The "10 Heavenly Stems" (甲乙丙丁戊己庚辛壬癸) combine with the "12 Earthly Branches" (子丑寅卯辰巳午未申酉戌亥) to form a cycle of 60 pairs with each one denoting a specific year in the Chinese calendar and repeats every 60 years. The 10 stems can correspond to one of five elements (wood, fire, earth, metal, water) and the 12 branches each correspond to an animal in the Chinese zodiac. Further details are at the link below:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexagenary_cycle

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 卯

末梢

June 29, 2014

Japanese Romaji: masshou

Japanese Meaning: tree top / the tip (of a branch, etc.) / periphery / end (of an object) / minor details / trivial / unimportant / peripheral / trifling / nonessentials

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 梢 (shāo) for “tip of a branch”; 周邊 (zhōubiān) for “periphery”; 末節 (mòjié) for “nonessential” or “minor details”

Parts:

matsu(ura, ure, sue, zue, batsu) - end / close (e.g. close of the month) / last / future / finally / the tip of / top / top end / the end of / trivialities / insignificant / posterity / descendants / offspring / youngest child / powder / (archaism) new shoots, new growth (of a tree), the trunk or leaves of a tree, the tips of the branches of a tree

shou(kozue) - treetops / twig / tip of a branch

Chinese Pinyin: mòshāo

Chinese Meaning: the tip / extremity / the end (of an object or of a period of time) / last few days

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 先 (saki) for the “end” of a physical object; 末 (sue) for a temporal “end” (e.g. close of the month)

Parts:

mò - end / last / final stage / latter part / close (e.g. close of the month) / late / recent / the end of (some object) / the tip of / trivialities / insignificant / unimportant / inessential detail / the four limbs / dust / powder / posterity / opera role of old man

shāo - tip of a branch / pointed tip of something long like a branch / rudder

*Note 1: the one similar meaning between Japanese and Chinese is the “end” of some long, physical object.

*Note 2: the English word “peripheral” can either mean the “outer edges” of something or “unimportant”.

銭湯/銭せん

July 14, 2014

*Note 1: words on yellow paper means that BOTH characters are new. Also, because I've already drawn 2200 characters (with some common-use characters remaining), from now on, difficult or obscure words, characters, and/or concepts may appear more frequently. Student discretion is advised.

Japanese Romaji: sentou

Japanese Meaning: sento (Japanese-style public bath, communal bathhouse)

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 澡堂 (zǎotáng) or 浴池 (yùchí) for "public bath" in general

Parts:

sen(zeni, zen) - money / coin made of non-precious materials / 0.01 yen / (archaism) one-thousandth of a kan (as a unit of mass) / (colloquialism) round coin with a (square) hole in the center

tou(yu) - hot bath / hot spring / warm or hot water / bathwater / a medicinal bath / a medicinal decoction / molten iron / molten metal used in casting or founding / bilge water / urine

Chinese Pinyin: qiántāng

Chinese Meaning: sento (Japanese-style public bath, communal bathhouse)

Parts:

qián(qian) - money / cash / coins / currency / fund / wealth / unit of weight, one tenth of a tael 兩

tāng(shāng) - soup / broth / soup stock / gravy / hot or boiling water / water in which something has been boiled / decoction of medicinal herbs / (archaic) rushing current, swift current, torrent

*Note 2: the second character is commonly used for "soup" (tāng) in Chinese but is used for "hot bath" (yu) in Japanese (so there aren't very many common word compounds between them). The common meaning between Japanese and Chinese which can be interpreted is "hot water".

*Note 3: a variant of the second character is 湯

寂寞

July 15, 2014

Japanese Romaji: sekibaku / jakumaku

Japanese Meaning: lonely / lonesome / dreary / desolate / deserted / desolation / loneliness / forlorn

Parts:

seki(sabi, sami, jaku) - loneliness / quietly / patina / antique look / elegant simplicity / well-trained voice / mellow / mature / (entering into) nirvana / death of a priest / used after a date to indicate the death of a monk at that time

baku - lonely / quiet

Chinese Pinyin: jìmò / jímò

Chinese Meaning: lonely / lonesome / solitude / (of a place) quiet / silent

Parts:

jì(jí) - silent / still / quiet / desolate / lonely / lonesome / solitary

mò - lonesome / lonely / silent / still / solitary / deserted / neglected

*Note: the two main meanings describe either (1) the emotion of loneliness or (2) a quiet and seemingly lifeless setting.

躯幹/軀

July 16, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kukan

Japanese Meaning: body / (anatomy) the trunk / torso / physique

Parts:

ku(karada, mukuro) - body / health / corpse / tree with rotten core / (archaism) counter for Buddhist images (statues & paintings)

kan(miki, kara, gara) - tree trunk / (arrow) shaft / (tool) handle / backbone / base / (archaism) stem, stalk

Chinese Pinyin: qūgàn

Chinese Meaning: (anatomy) the trunk / torso / the body / the physical build

Parts:

qū - human body / trunk / torso

gàn - tree trunk / (human anatomy) trunk / main part of something / prop / to manage / to work as / to do / to act / to perform / engage in / capable / capability / cadre / talent / competence / (slang) to kill, murder / (vulgar, slang) have sexual intercourse with

*Note 1: a variant of the second character is 榦 (which is also a separate character).

*Note 2: the simplified Chinese version of the second character (干) is also a separate traditional Chinese character and the simplified Chinese version of 乾

*Note 3: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

篠笛

July 17, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shinobue

Japanese Meaning: shinobue (Japanese transverse bamboo flute [high-pitched; usually with seven holes])

Parts:

shino(sasa, suzu) - bamboo grass / thin-culmed dwarf bamboo (growing in clusters) / (abbreviation)
shinobue / sliver (strand of loose fibers) / (archaism) Sasamorpho borealis (species of bamboo grass unique to Japan) or the shoots of this plant

bue(fue, teki) - flute / piccolo / pipe / whistle / clarinet / bagpipe

Chinese Pinyin: xiǎodí

Chinese Meaning: shinobue (Japanese transverse bamboo flute [high-pitched; usually with seven holes])

Parts:

xiǎo - dwarf bamboo / diminutive in person's name

dí - bamboo flute / whistle

*Note: a variant of the first character is 篠

秋千

July 18, 2014

Japanese Romaji: buranko / shuusen

Japanese Meaning: a swing (a hanging seat)

Parts:

shuu(shirigai) - a swing (hanging seat) / crupper

sen - a swing (hanging seat) / trapeze

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as ブランコ. "buranko" comes from the Portuguese word "balanço".

Chinese Pinyin: qiūqiān

Chinese Meaning: a swing (a hanging seat) / seesaw / trapeze

Parts:

qiū - a swing (hanging seat) / leather strap

qiān - a swing (hanging seat)

*Note 2: the simplified Chinese version of both characters are also separate characters in Japanese and traditional Chinese. The first is 秋 (aki / shuu / qiū: fall [season]). The second is 千 (sen / zen / chi / qiān: thousand).

*Note 3: in Cantonese, the characters are reversed.

敢為

July 19, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kan'i

Japanese Meaning: daring

Parts:

kan(a, ka) - daring / feeble / frail / pitiful / sad / tragic

i(su, shi, tame, na) - as a result of / consequence / effect / affecting / regarding / concerning / sake / purpose / objective / aim / advantage / be of use / benefit / good / welfare / change / cost / do / make / practice / reach to / serve as / try

*Note 1: in Japanese, 為替 (foreign exchange) is read as "kawase" or "gawase"; the commonly used verb する (suru, "to do") can be written as 為る; the commonly used verb なる (naru, "to become") can be written as 為る

Chinese Pinyin: gǎnwéi

Chinese Meaning: to dare to do

Parts:

gǎn - to dare to / daring / have the courage to / venture / bold / brave / courageous / (polite) may I venture / be sure / be certain / deduce

wéi(wèi) - as (in the capacity of) / to take something as / to act as / to serve as / to behave as / to become / to be / is / be equivalent to / to do / to act / go ahead with / to make / to handle / govern / be...by (in the passive voice) / used after an adjective to form an adverb / used after an adverb for emphasis / because of / for / to / on behalf of / on account of

*Note 2: the long definition of this word is "to do resolutely in the face of difficulties"

*Note 3: a variant of the second character is 爲

朱鷺

July 20, 2014

Japanese Romaji: toki / shuro

Japanese Meaning: Japanese crested ibis (*Nipponia nippon*) / crested ibis

Parts:

shu(ake, aka, su) - cinnabar / vermilion / vermillion / scarlet / red / crimson / blood / bloody / slightly-orange red / red-containing colour (e.g. brown, pink, orange) / red pigment (and ink made from same) / red text (as used to correct documents) / (colloquialism) Red (i.e. communist) / (abbreviation) red light / (abbreviation) red ink (i.e. in finance or proof-reading) / (in) the red / complete / total / perfect / obvious

ro(sagi) - heron (*Ardeidae*)

Chinese Pinyin: zhūlù

Chinese Meaning: ibis / Japanese crested ibis (*Nipponia nippon*)

Parts:

zhū - vermilion / vermillion / cinnabar / red

lù - heron / egret / *Ardea* species (various)

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as トキ and alternatively as 鶺鴒 (both pronounced “toki”). In Chinese, this word is also known as 朱鷺 (zhūhuán)

*Note 2: the first character is also the simplified Chinese version of 殊 A variant of the second character is 鷺

蕃茄

July 21, 2014

Japanese Romaji: banka

Japanese Meaning: tomato

Parts:

ban(ba) - grow luxuriously

ka(na, nasu) - eggplant (Solanum melongena) / aubergine

Chinese Pinyin: fānqié

Chinese Meaning: tomato

Parts:

fān(fán, bō) - foreign (non-Chinese) things / barbarian / luxuriant / flourishing / lush / to reproduce / to proliferate / multiply / increase

qié(jiā) - eggplant / tomato / aubergine / used for several plants non-native to East Asia / lotus stem / phonetic character used in loanwords for the sound "jia", although 夾 is more common / (Cantonese) excrement

*Note 1: in Japanese, tomatoes are more commonly known as トマト (tomato). In Chinese, tomatoes are more commonly written as 番茄 (fānqié).

*Note 2: the “fān” reading of the first character is also a variant of 番 (which is also a separate character).

爪牙

July 22, 2014

Japanese Romaji: souga

Japanese Meaning: claws and tusks / claws and fangs / clutches (e.g. trap) / devious design / means of causing harm / weapon / right-hand man / pawn / stooge / cat's-paw / a tool (person being used by another)

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 魔爪 (mózhǎo) for "evil clutches"; 毒手 (dúshǒu) for "evil scheme" (for causing harm); 爪和牙 (zhuǎ hé yá) for "claws and tusks"

Parts:

sou(tsume, dzume, tsuma) - claw / nail (e.g. fingernail, toenail) / talon / hoof / plectrum / a pick / a hook / a clasp

ga(kiba, ge) - fang / tusk / tooth (particularly the canines) / ivory

Chinese Pinyin: zhǎoyá

Chinese Meaning: claws and teeth / nails and teeth / pawn / lackey / accomplice (in crime) / collaborator / henchman / retainer / minion / cat's-paws / a tool (person being used by another)

Parts:

zhǎo(zhuǎ) - claw / nail (e.g. fingernail, toenail) / talon / animal feet

yá - tooth / teeth / canine / incisor / premolar/ molars / fang / tusk / serrated / bite / ivory articles / broker

*Note: the second character is commonly used in Chinese to refer to human teeth. In Japanese, 歯 (ha) is used instead.

扁舟

July 23, 2014

Japanese Romaji: henshuu

Japanese Meaning: little boat / skiff

Parts:

hen(hira) - small / level

shuu(funa, fune, bune) - boat / ship / small ship / watercraft / vessel / steamship / tank / tub / vat /
trough / counter for boat-shaped containers (e.g. of sashimi)

Chinese Pinyin: piānzhōu

Chinese Meaning: small boat / skiff

Parts:

piān(biǎn) - small (boat) / flat / flat-shaped / tablet / signboard / (colloquial) to beat (somebody) up

zhōu - boat / ship / vessel

*Note: the first character is also a variant of 偏

卜 筮

July 24, 2014

Japanese Romaji: bokuzei

Japanese Meaning: fortune-telling / divination

Parts:

boku(uranai, urana, ura) - divining / divination / fortune-telling / telling a fortune / predicting / choosing / settling / fixing

zei(medogi) - divination sticks / (water) divining equipment

Chinese Pinyin: bǔshì

Chinese Meaning: divination

Parts:

bǔ - to divine / fortune-telling / prophesy / consult the oracle / foretell / predict / to forecast or estimate / (of a place to live, etc.) to choose / select (date, dwelling, etc.)

shì - divination with stalks of plants (milfoil) / divining rod

*Note 1: the first character is also the simplified Chinese version of 蔔

*Note 2: the first character should not be confused with the katakana ト (to), which has no meaning on its own.

穎悟

July 25, 2014

Japanese Romaji: eigo

Japanese Meaning: intelligent / shrewd

Parts:

ei(kai) - cleverness / heads of grain / awn / glume

go(sato) - discern / enlightenment / perceive / realize / understand

Chinese Pinyin: yǐngwù

Chinese Meaning: unusually intelligent / very bright

Parts:

yǐng - head of grain / rise tassel / glume / grain husk / tip (of writing brush, etc.) / sharp point / clever / gifted / outstanding / clever / brilliant

wù - to comprehend / to apprehend / to become aware of / realize / awaken / understand

*Note: a variant of the first character is 穎 A variant of the second character is 悉

狐狸

July 26, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kori

Japanese Meaning: foxes and tanuki (Japanese raccoon dog) / (figurative) sly fellow, deceiver

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 狐和狸 (hú hé lí) for “foxes and tanuki”

Parts:

ko(kitsune, gitsune) - fox (especially the red fox, *Vulpes vulpes*) / fox (i.e. a sly person) / soba or udon topped with deep-fried tofu / (abbreviation) light brown

ri(tanuki, danuki) - tanuki (Japanese raccoon dog, *Nyctereutes procyonoides*) / raccoon / sly dog / sly old fox / sly fox / cunning devil / craftiness / sly person / someone who makes evil plans without ever breaking their poker face

Chinese Pinyin: húli

Chinese Meaning: fox / (figurative) sly and treacherous person

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 狐 (kitsune) for “fox”

Parts:

hú - species of fox

li(lí) - fox / raccoon dog / fox-like animal

*Note 1: foxes and tanuki are commonly portrayed in Asian folklore as tricksters or deceivers, hence the connotation of being “sly” or “treacherous” when referring to people.

*Note 2: 2 variants of the second character are 狸 and 狢

芭蕉

July 27, 2014

Japanese Romaji: bashou

Japanese Meaning: Japanese fiber banana (Musa basjoo) / a plantain

Parts:

ba - banana

shou - banana

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is also written as バショウ

Chinese Pinyin: bājiāo

Chinese Meaning: Japanese fiber banana (Musa basjoo) / a plantain

Parts:

bā - a herb / banana / plantain or banana palm / fragrant

jiāo(qiáo) - banana / plantain / broadleaf plants

*Note 2: the common banana is known as バナナ (banana) in Japanese and as 香蕉 (xiāngjiāo) in Chinese.

蒟蒻

July 28, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kon'nyaku

Japanese Meaning: konjac, konjak, konnyaku (in Japanese cooking, solidified jelly made from the rhizome of devil's tongue)

Parts:

kon - devil's tongue (plant)

nyaku - a kind of water plant

*Note: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as コンニャク or こんにゃく

Chinese Pinyin: jǔruò

Chinese Meaning: konjac, konjak, konnyaku (in Japanese cooking, solidified jelly made from the rhizome of devil's tongue)

Parts:

jǔ - betel pepper / Amorphophallus konjac (devil's tongue plant)

ruò - young rush (Typha japonica), a kind of cattail / rushes / konnyaku (in Japanese cooking), solidified jelly made from the rhizome of devil's tongue

鎌鼬/鎌

July 29, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kamaitachi

Japanese Meaning: kamaitachi (type of Japanese folkloric monster [yokai], thought to be a trio of weasels who appear in a whirlwind to cut their victim) / cut caused by whirlwind / a flesh wound caused by some mysterious aerial influence

Parts:

kama(gama) - scythe / sickle / trick / (abbreviation) sickle-and-chain (weapon) / (abbreviation) spear with curved cross-blades / (abbreviation) gooseneck tenon and mortise joint / (archaism) noisiness / part of a fish around the gills

itachi - weasel (especially the Japanese weasel, *Mustela itatsi*) / mustelid (any other member of the weasel family, including badgers, martens, minks, ermine, ferrets, otters, polecats, stoats, skunks, etc.)

Chinese Pinyin: liányòu

Chinese Meaning: kamaitachi (type of Japanese folkloric monster [yokai], thought to be a trio of weasels who appear in a whirlwind to cut their victim) / cut caused by whirlwind / a flesh wound caused by some mysterious aerial influence

Parts:

lián - sickle / scythe

yòu - weasel (especially the Japanese weasel, *Mustela itatsi*)

*Note 1: this term can refer to sudden cracking of skin (such as in cold weather). It also refers to the kamaitachi, a mythological weasel creature with sickle-like claws said to travel in whirlwinds and able to cause skin injuries without causing pain.

*Note 2: another variant of the first character is 鎌

疲憊

July 30, 2014

Japanese Romaji: hihai

Japanese Meaning: exhaustion

Parts:

hi(tsuka, dzuka) - exhausted / to tire / weary

hai(pai) - fatigue

Chinese Pinyin: píbèi

Chinese Meaning: exhausted / tired / beaten / fatigued / weary

Parts:

pí - weary / feel tired / be exhausted / weak / sluggish / bored with

bèi - exhausted / tired / weary / fatigued / worn-out

蚕蛾/蠶

July 31, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kaikoga

Japanese Meaning: silkworm moth (Bombyx mori) / silk moth

Parts:

kaiko(san, sora, ko, go) - silkworm (Bombyx Mori)

ga - moth

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as カイコガ

Chinese Pinyin: cán'é

Chinese Meaning: silkworm moth (Bombyx mori) / silk moth

Parts:

cán - silkworm

é - moth

*Note 2: another variant of the first character is 蚕 A variant of the second character is 蛾

藍縷

August 1, 2014

Japanese Romaji: boro / ranru

Japanese Meaning: rag / scrap / a shred / tattered clothes / fault (especially in a pretense, pretence) / defect / run-down or junky

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 過錯 (guòcuò), 錯誤 (cuòwù), 過失 (guòshī), 缺點 (quēdiǎn), or 毛病 (máobing) for “faults” and “defects”

Parts:

ran - rags

ru - rags

Chinese Pinyin: lánlǚ

Chinese Meaning: (said of clothes) tattered / in rags / shabby / ragged

Parts:

lán - ragged garments / tattered / threadbare

lǚ - soiled / tattered / threadbare / worn / ragged / lapel / collar (garment) / overcoat / (Cantonese) topcoat, outer garment

*Note: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as ぼろ or ボロ (boro) and can also be written as 藍縷. In Chinese, this word can also be written as 藍縷

滂沱

August 2, 2014

Japanese Romaji: bouda

Japanese Meaning: floods of tears, sweat, rain, etc.

Parts:

bou(hou) - flowing / vast

da - flowing of tears

Chinese Pinyin: pāngtuó

Chinese Meaning: torrential (rain) / streaming (tears) / pouring / flooding

Parts:

pāng - (of water) gushing / pouring / torrential / voluminous / rushing (water)

tuó - tearful / rivers / streams / waterways / flow / to branch (of a river)

*Note: a variant of the second character is 沱

鍼灸/針

August 3, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shinkyuu

Japanese Meaning: acupuncture and moxibustion

Parts:

shin(hari, bari) - (acupuncture) needle / acupuncture

kyuu(yaito) - moxibustion / moxa cautery / chastisement

Chinese Pinyin: zhēnjiǔ

Chinese Meaning: acupuncture and moxibustion

Parts:

zhēn - needle / needle-like object / pin / tack / prick / inject / injection / shot / stitch / acupuncture

jiǔ - cauterize by burning moxa or mugwort / moxibustion / moxa cautery

*Note: the second version of the first character is a variant of the first version as well as a separate character. The first version is more common for this word in Japanese. The second version is more common in Chinese.

紫蘇

August 4, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shiso

Japanese Meaning: perilla (*Perilla frutescens*) / shiso / beefsteak plant

Parts:

shi(murasaki, ji) - purple / violet / type of soy sauce / (slang) soy sauce / *Lithospermum erythrorhizon* (species of gromwell)

so(yomigae, su) - revived / be resuscitated / so (Japanese dairy product) / condensed milk / (abbreviation) Soviet Union

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is also commonly written as シソ

*Note 2: in Japanese, 紫陽花 (*hydrangea*) is read as "ajisai"

Chinese Pinyin: zǐsū

Chinese Meaning: perilla (*Perilla frutescens*) / shiso / beefsteak plant

Parts:

zǐ - purple / violet / amethyst / *Lithospermum erythrorhizon* (flowering plant whose root provides red purple dye)

sū - *Perilla frutescens* (Chinese basil or wild red basil) / to revive / resurrect / a species of thyme / used as phonetic in transliteration / (abbreviation) Soviet Union / tassel / fringe

*Note 3: the leaves of this plant are often used in Asian cuisine.

*Note 4: three variants of the second character are 蘇 蘇 蘇

*Note 5: the simplified Chinese version of the second character (苏) is also the simplified Chinese version of: 蘇 蘇 蘇

鈴蘭

August 5, 2014

Japanese Romaji: suzuran

Japanese Meaning: lily of the valley (Convallaria majalis)

Parts:

suzu(rin, rei) - small bell (often globular) / buzzer / chime

ran(ra) - orchid / a plant of the orchid family, bearing unusually-shaped flowers of beautiful colours /
(abbreviation) Holland / the Netherlands / Dutch

*Note: in Japanese, this word is also commonly written as スズラン

Chinese Pinyin: línglán

Chinese Meaning: lily of the valley (Convallaria majalis)

Parts:

líng - (small) bell / jingling bells / chime

lán - orchid / fragrant thoroughwort (Eupatorium fortunei) / lily magnolia / elegant / graceful

蚯蚓

August 6, 2014

Japanese Romaji: mimize / memezu / kyuuin

Japanese Meaning: earthworm

Parts:

kyuu - earthworm

in - earthworm

*Note: in Japanese, this word is also written as ミミズ (mimize)

Chinese Pinyin: qiūyǐn

Chinese Meaning: earthworm

Parts:

qiū - earthworm

yǐn - earthworm

鶺鴒

August 7, 2014

Japanese Romaji: sekirei

Japanese Meaning: wagtail / any bird of family Motacillidae

Parts:

seki - wagtail

rei - wagtail

Chinese Pinyin: jí líng

Chinese Meaning: wagtail / any bird of family Motacillidae

Parts:

jí - wagtail

líng - wagtail / species of lark / Motacilla species (various)

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is also written as セキレイ; in Chinese, this word is also written as 脊令

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 鶺鴒

葛藤

August 8, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kattou / tsudzurafuji

Japanese Meaning: [kattou] conflict / complications / troubles / discord / strife / quarrel / dissension / (Zen Buddhism) a difficult problem; [tsudzurafuji] Chinese moonseed (Sinomenium acutum) / complex inter-relationship (as in the struggle between two types of vine over one piece of land)

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 糾葛 (jiūgé) for dispute / entanglement; 糾紛 (jiūfēn), 爭執 (zhēngzhí), or 爭訟 (zhēngsòng) for conflict / quarrel / dispute; 憂慮 (yōulǜ) or 苦惱 (kǔnǎo) for troubles / distress / worry; 不調和 (bùtiáohé) for discord / dissension; 衝突 (chōngtū) for conflict / contention; 矛盾 (máodùn) for contradiction; 漢防己 (hànfángjǐ) for “Sinomenium acutum”

Parts:

katsu(kuzu, kazura, tsudzura) - kudzu (Pueraria lobata) (type of vine) / (Japanese) arrowroot / creeping plant / creeper

tou(fuji) - wisteria (especially Japanese wisteria, Wisteria floribunda) / wistaria

*Note 1: the second character appears frequently in Japanese surnames

*Note 2: in Japanese, 葛籠 (wicker clothes hamper) is read as “tsudzura”

Chinese Pinyin: géténg

Chinese Meaning: kudzu (Pueraria lobata) / tangle of vines / (figurative) complications or difficulties / (Buddhism) tangled and involved

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 葛 (kuzu) for kudzu / Pueraria lobata; 悶着 (monchaku) for trouble / quarrel / dispute; 纏れ (motsure) for tangle / entanglement / snarl / difficulties / trouble / troubles / snag

Parts:

gé(gě) - kudzu (Pueraria lobata) / hemp cloth / poplin

téng - rattan / cane / vine / creeper plant / liana / wisteria

*Note 3: in summary, the two basic meanings of this word are (1) the name of a plant and (2) conflict in a very broad sense. The Japanese term commonly refers to conflict while the Chinese term commonly refers to a plant.

*Note 4: a variant of the second character is 籐

蝙蝠

August 9, 2014

Japanese Romaji: koumori / kawahori / henpuku

Japanese Meaning: [koumori] bat (animal) / (Abbreviation) (western-style) umbrella / opportunist / turncoat; [kawahori] (archaism) bat (animal) / (abbreviation) folding fan; [henpuku] bat (animal)

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 機會主義者 (jīhuìzhǔyì) or 變色龍 (biànsèlóng, slang) for “opportunist” (the second term literally means “chameleon”); 傘 (sǎn) for “umbrella”; 折扇 (zhéshàn) or 扇子 (shànzi) for “folding fan”

Parts:

hen - bat (animal)

puku - bat (animal)

*Note: in Japanese, this word (koumori) is commonly written as コウモリ

Chinese Pinyin: biānfú

Chinese Meaning: bat (animal)

Parts:

biān - bat (animal)

fú - bat (animal)

矩尺

August 10, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kanejaku

Japanese Meaning: carpenter's square (for checking angles) / common shaku (unit of distance; approx. 30.3 cm)

Japanese to Chinese Translation: for the “shaku”, the closest Chinese equivalent is the Chinese foot 尺 (chǐ). The precise length varies by region and time period.

Parts:

kane(ku) - quadrature / (archaism) carpenter's square / ruler / perpendicularity / straightness / model / standard

jaku(shaku, zaku, seki, saka) - shaku (unit of distance approximately equal to 30.3 cm) / Japanese foot / measure / rule / scale / length

Chinese Pinyin: jǔchǐ

Chinese Meaning: carpenter's square (for checking angles) / set square (tool to measure right angles)

Parts:

jǔ - carpenter's square / ruler / rectangle / rules / regulations / pattern / to carve / (physics) moment

chǐ(chě) - a Chinese foot / one-third of a meter / a ruler / a tape-measure / measure / ruler-shaped instrument / instrument for drawing graphs / one of the three acupoints for measuring pulse in Chinese medicine / one of the characters used to represent a musical note in gongche notation

*Note 1: this word is more commonly written as 曲尺 (J: kanejaku/kyokushaku; C: qūchǐ). In Chinese, it is also known as 角尺 (jiǎochǐ)

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 槩

陷穽/陷阱

August 11, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kansei

Japanese Meaning: trap / pitfall / snare / a plot

Parts:

kan(ochii, otoshii) - fall into / slide into / fall (castle) / collapse / cave in

sei - sunken trap

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is also written as 陥せい

Chinese Pinyin: xiànjǐng

Chinese Meaning: pitfall / snare / trap / booby trap

Parts:

xiàn - pitfall / trap / to get stuck / get bogged down / to sink / submerge / plunge / to cave in / to frame up (false charge) / harm somebody with trumped-up charges / to capture (a city in battle) / (military) to make a breakthrough / to fall (to the enemy) / defect / deficiency

jǐng - pitfall / trap / snare / pit

*Note 2: this term refers to both a physical trap (e.g. a hole meant to catch something) and a figurative trap (e.g. a plot to manipulate, harm or deceive someone else). In Japanese, more common terms are 落とし穴 (otoshiana) and 罟 (wana).

*Note 3: 2 more variants of the second character are 堊 and 洿

澎湃

August 12, 2014

Japanese Romaji: houhai

Japanese Meaning: as the sound of surging water / vigorous / surging / welling

Parts:

hou - turbulent water

hai - sound of waves

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word can also be written as 澎湃 or 滂湃

Chinese Pinyin: péngpài

Chinese Meaning: the roaring of billows / to surge

Parts:

péng - sound of waves / splatter

pài - sound of waves / turbulent

*Note 2: this term can refer to a physical wave of water or a figurative wave (e.g. a wave of emotion).

桎梏

August 13, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shikkoku

Japanese Meaning: bonds / fetters / restraint / yoke

Parts:

shitsu - fetters

koku - manacles / handcuffs

Chinese Pinyin: zhìgù

Chinese Meaning: shackles / fetters / to shackle / (figurative) restraint / yoke

Parts:

zhì - fetters / shackles / handcuffs

gù - braces (medical) / fetters / manacles / handcuffs

鴛鴦

August 14, 2014

Japanese Romaji: oshidori / en'ou

Japanese Meaning: mandarin duck (*Aix galericulata*) / affectionate couple / a pair of lovers / [oshidori] a

Japanese hair style for women

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 鴛鴦髮型 (yuānyang fàxíng) for the oshidori hairstyle

Parts:

oshi(en) - male mandarin duck

dori(ou) - female mandarin duck

*Note: in Japanese, this word is also written as オンドリ (oshidori). The full word for the Japanese equivalent of “a couple of lovebirds” is 鴛鴦夫婦 (oshidori fuufu).

Chinese Pinyin: yuānyang

Chinese Meaning: mandarin ducks (*Aix galericulata*) / affectionate couple / a pair of lovers / lovey-dovey couple / lovebirds

Parts:

yuān - male mandarin duck

yang(yāng) - female mandarin duck

冤枉

August 15, 2014

Japanese Romaji: en'ou

Japanese Meaning: a false charge

Parts:

en - false charge / hatred

ou(ma) - bend / crooked / curve / lean / forcibly / against one's will / perverse

*Note 1: a more common Japanese word is 濡れ衣 (nureginu).

Chinese Pinyin: yuānwang

Chinese Meaning: to accuse wrongly / to treat unjustly / injustice / to accuse a person with a false charge / a wrong / a grievance / to do someone injustice / not worthwhile

Parts:

yuān - accuse falsely / treat unjustly / to wrong / grievance / injustice / a wrong / feeling of bitterness / hatred / enmity / worthless / waste of money / to cheat / to kid / to fool / to pull somebody's legs

wang(wǎng) - to twist / crooked / bent / distort / pervert / unjust / wrong / aggrieved / in vain / useless / to no avail / fruitless

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 冤

鳴禽

August 16, 2014

Japanese Romaji: meikin

Japanese Meaning: songbird / oscine

Parts:

mei(na, naru, nari, o) - chirp / cry / bark / echo / honk / ring / sound / crying

kin(tori) - bird / bird meat (especially chicken meat) / fowl / poultry / captive / capture

Chinese Pinyin: míngqín

Chinese Meaning: songbird / oscine

Parts:

míng - to cry (of birds, animals and insects) / call / screech / warble / make a sound / make a noise / ring
/ to express / to voice / to air (one's views, feelings)

qín - generic term for birds and animals / birds / fowl / (archaism) to capture

瑪瑙

August 17, 2014

Japanese Romaji: menou

Japanese Meaning: agate

Parts:

me - agate / onyx

nou - agate / onyx

Chinese Pinyin: mǎnǎo

Chinese Meaning: agate / cornelian (mineral) / carnelian

Chinese to Japanese Translation: カーネリアン (kaanerian) for “carnelian”

Parts:

mǎ - agate / cornelian / carnelian

nǎo - agate / cornelian / carnelian

*Note: a variant of the second character is 瑙

馥郁

September 1, 2014

Japanese Romaji: fukuiku

Japanese Meaning: fragrant / sweet-smelling

Parts:

fuku - perfume

iku - cultural progress / perfume

Chinese Pinyin: fùyù

Chinese Meaning: strongly fragrant / heavily scented / powerfully fragrant

Parts:

fù - fragrance / fragrant / scent / aroma

yù - elegant / adorned / colorfully ornamented / beautiful / refined / sweet smelling / rich in aroma /
(Cantonese) to move, hit

*Note 1: in Chinese, this word can also be written as 馥鬱

*Note 2: the second character is also the simplified Chinese version of 鬱

渡鴉

September 2, 2014

Japanese Romaji: watarigarasu

Japanese Meaning: common raven (Corvus corax)

Parts:

watari(wata, to) - to cross / deliver / import / migrate / transit / ferry / ford / diameter

garasu(karasu, a) - crow / raven

*Note 1: in some Japanese words, the reading of a character may be derived from a verb with the ending hiragana cut off. In this case, “watari” for the first character comes from 渡る (wataru, to cross), converted to 渡し (watari, a ferry), then the “ri” character removed.

*Note 2: in Japanese, this word can also be written as ワタリガラス, 渡し鴉, 渡鳥, or 渡し鳥

Chinese Pinyin: dùyā

Chinese Meaning: common raven (Corvus corax) / raven (family Corvidae)

Parts:

dù - to cross (river, ocean) / to pass through / to ferry / ferry over / ferry across / ferry boat / ferry crossing / tide (somebody) over / pull through

yā - crow / raven / Corvus species (various)

*Note 3: a variant of the second character is 鴉

瑕疵

September 3, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kashi

Japanese Meaning: flaw / defect / blemish

Parts:

ka(kizu) - blemish / flaw / defect / weakness / weak point / wound / injury / cut / gash / bruise / scrape / scar / chip / crack / scratch / nick / stain (on one's reputation) / disgrace / dishonor / dishonour / (emotional) hurt / hurt feelings

shi(kizu) - crack / scratch / chip / nick / flaw / speck / defect / weakness / weak point / wound / injury / cut / gash / bruise / scrape / scar / stain (on one's reputation) / disgrace / dishonor / dishonour / (emotional) hurt / hurt feelings

*Note: in Japanese, the most common way to write injury (kizu) is 傷

Chinese Pinyin: xiá cī

Chinese Meaning: blemish / flaw / defect / imperfection

Parts:

xiá - blemish / flaw in gem / fault / defect

cī - blemish / flaw / defect / fault / disease

阻碍/礙

September 4, 2014

Japanese Romaji: sogai

Japanese Meaning: an obstruction / inhibition / blocking / a check / hindrance / impediment

Parts:

so(haba) - deter / impede / obstruct / prevent / thwart / separate from

gai(ge) - obstacle / to block / deter / hinder / obstruct

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as 阻害

*Note 2: in Japanese, 悪阻 can be read as "tsuwari"

Chinese Pinyin: zǔ'ài

Chinese Meaning: to obstruct / to hinder / to block / obstruction / obstacle / hindrance / to impede / to prevent / to bar / to retard / inhibition

Parts:

zǔ - to hinder / to block / to obstruct / impede / oppose / blockade / detain / prevent / to stop / prohibit / proscribe / separate / separated / difficulty / suffer / rely on / strategic pass

ài - to hinder / to obstruct / to block / deter / be in the way of / be harmful to

*Note 3: the first version of the second character is also the simplified Chinese version

*Note 4: another variant of the second character is 導

憔悴

September 5, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shousui

Japanese Meaning: emaciation / haggardness / wasting away / exhaustion / tiredness / worn out

Parts:

shou - get thin

sui(kajika, kase, ka, segare) - becoming emaciated / low / poor / scrawny / (humble) son / punk / brat / (colloquialism) penis

Chinese Pinyin: qiáocuì

Chinese Meaning: emaciation / haggardness / to have a worn look / languish / wan and sallow / thin and pallid / to pine / to pine away / to suffer distress, worries, etc. / (of plants) withered / wilt / rot

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 萎れている (shioreteiru) for “withered plant”

Parts:

qiáo - haggard / be worn-out / emaciated / worn / wan and sallow

cùi - haggard / become emaciated / suffer / sad / downcast / distressed / worried / melancholy

*Note 1: in general, this word can describe the worn-out, thin appearance or tired behaviour one might have as a result of any form of physical or psychological stress.

*Note 2: in Chinese, a variant of this word is 蕉萃

*Note 3: 3 variants of the first character are: 顛, 憔, 蕉; 2 variants of the second character are: 悴 and 頹

峻嶺

September 6, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shunrei

Japanese Meaning: steep peak / steep ridge / high rugged mountain

Parts:

shun - high / steep

rei(mine, ne) - peak / summit / ridge

Chinese Pinyin: jùnlǐng

Chinese Meaning: lofty mountain range / high mountains / steep mountain / lofty peaks

Parts:

jùn - (of mountains) high / steep / towering / harsh / severe / stern

lǐng - mountain range / mountain ridge / mountain peak

*Note: 2 variants of the first character are 峻 and 隄

萵苣

September 7, 2014

Japanese Romaji: chisha / chisa

Japanese Meaning: lettuce

Parts:

chi(dji) - lettuce

sha(sa, chisha) - lettuce / torch

*Note: in Japanese, lettuce is more commonly known as レタス (retasu).

Chinese Pinyin: wōjù

Chinese Meaning: lettuce (Lactuca sativa) / celtuce

Chinese to Japanese Translation: セルタス (serutasu) for “celtuce”

Parts:

wō - lettuce

jù - kind of lettuce

嫦娥

September 8, 2014

Japanese Romaji: jouga / kouga

Japanese Meaning: Chang'e, the lady in the moon (Chinese mythology) (legendary Moon goddess)

Parts:

jou(kou) - a proper name (Chang'e)

ga - beautiful

Chinese Pinyin: cháng'é

Chinese Meaning: Chang'e, the lady in the moon (Chinese mythology) (legendary Moon goddess)

Parts:

cháng - Chang'e, the traditional Chinese moon goddess (a legendary beauty who flew to the moon / the lady in the moon)

é - good / be beautiful / beauty / beautiful young woman

*Note 1: Chang'e can also be referred to as 姮娥 (in Chinese, the reading changes to “Héng'é”).

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 姮

蟾蜍

September 9, 2014

Japanese Romaji: hikigaeru / senjo

Japanese Meaning: toad (especially the Japanese toad, Bufo japonicus)

Parts:

hiki(sen) - toad (especially the Japanese toad, Bufo japonicus)

gaeru(jo) - toad

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as ヒキガエル and alternatively as 蟾蛙

Chinese Pinyin: chánchú

Chinese Meaning: toad

Parts:

chán - toad / moon

chú - toad / Bufo vulgaris

*Note 2: in Chinese, the first character also refers to a toad that is said to live on the moon.

錦繡/繡/綉

September 10, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kinshuu

Japanese Meaning: fabric with a brocade and embroidery / beautiful fabric / beautiful clothes / beautiful poem / beautiful wording / beautiful autumn leaves / beautiful flowers

Parts:

kin(nishiki) - brocade / fine dress / fine clothes / honors

shuu - figured cloth / sew / embroider / embroidery / ornament

Chinese Pinyin: jǐnxiù

Chinese Meaning: beautiful / splendid / as beautiful as brocade / exquisitely brocaded silks / fabric with a brocade and embroidery / beautiful fabric / beautiful clothes / beautiful poem / beautiful wording

Parts:

jǐn - brocade / tapestry / embroidery / embroidered work / bright and beautiful / elegant

xiù - embroider / embroidery / embroidered article / tapestry / ornament / gorgeous / rich and bright colors

*Note 1: in general, this word describes anything which is considered “beautiful”. It literally refers to a type of fabric with elaborate patterns (brocade).

*Note 2: the third and fourth versions of the second character are the least commonly used variants in Japanese and Chinese.

輸贏

September 11, 2014

Japanese Romaji: yuei / shuei

Japanese Meaning: gain or loss / victory or defeat

Parts:

yu(shu) - send / transport / be inferior

ei(ka) - surplus / victory

Chinese Pinyin: shūyíng

Chinese Meaning: win or loss / outcome / losses and gains (in gambling, etc.) / defeat or victory (in a game, etc.)

Parts:

shū - to lose (in a match, game, etc.) / be beaten / be defeated / to transport / convey / carry / transmit / haul / to donate (money) / contribute (money) / to enter (a password)

yíng - to beat / to win / to score / achieve / surplus / to gain / make profit

*Note: a variant of the second character is 贏

薯蕷

September 12, 2014

Japanese Romaji: tororo / jouyo / joyo / shoyo / yamanoimo

Japanese Meaning: [tororo] grated yam / Japanese yam (*Dioscorea japonica*)

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 山藥泥 (shānyáo ní) for “grated yam”; 日本薯蕷 (rìběnshǔyù) for “Japanese yam”

Parts:

jou(jo, sho, imo) - potato / tuber / taro / (Derogatory) yokel / bumpkin

yo - potato

*Note 1: for the multiple readings of this word in Japanese: “tororo” is more commonly written as とろろ; “jouyo”, “joyo”, and “shoyo” are also written as 諸蕷; “yamanoimo” is also written as ヤマノイモ or 山の芋 (or more commonly “yamaimo” 山芋).

Chinese Pinyin: shǔyù

Chinese Meaning: Chinese yam (*Dioscorea opposita* / *Dioscorea batatas*)

Chinese to Japanese Translation: ナガイモ, 長芋, or 長薯 (nagaimo)

Parts:

shǔ - potato / yam / tuber

yù - yam

*Note 2: in Chinese, this is also known as 山藥 (shānyào), 淮山 (huáishān), or simply 蕷 (yù).

*Note 3: a variant of the first character is 薯 (which is also a separate character)

庖厨/廚

September 13, 2014

Japanese Romaji: houchuu

Japanese Meaning: kitchen

Parts:

hou(bou) - kitchen

chuu(kuriya, zu) - kitchen / (Slang) someone who makes childish posts (on a BBS, etc.)

Chinese Pinyin: páochú

Chinese Meaning: kitchen / a cook / chef

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 料理人 (ryourinin), 調理師 (chourishi), シェフ (shefu), or コック (kokku) for “chef” or “a cook”

Parts:

páo - kitchen / cooking / cuisine

chú - kitchen / a cook / chef / closet / cupboard

*Note 1: the first version of the second character is also the simplified Chinese version.

*Note 2: in Japanese, more common terms for “kitchen” are 台所 (daidokoro), キッチン (kitchin), 調理場 (chouriba), 厨房 (chuubou), or 厨/廚 (kuriya). In Chinese, a more common term for “kitchen” is 厨房 (chúfáng); for “chef”, it is 廚師(chúshī).

*Note 3: 2 more variants of the second character are 櫥 and 廚

炊爨

September 14, 2014

Japanese Romaji: suisan

Japanese Meaning: cooking a meal, especially rice

Parts:

sui(kashi, ta, taki, da) - to cook / boil

san(kashi) - boil / cook

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word can also be written 炊さん. This word is generally interchangeable with 炊飯 (suihan), but “suisan” can be considered more general to refer to cooking food other than just rice. Both terms are used in 飯盒炊飯 (hangousuihan) and 飯盒炊爨 (hangousuisan) to refer to the type of cooking one might do while camping (and specifically using a 飯盒 (hangou, mess kit)).

Chinese Pinyin: chuīcuàn

Chinese Meaning: to light a fire and cook a meal / to prepare meals

Parts:

chuī - to cook food / cooking / meal

cuàn - cooking stove / oven / to cook

*Note 2: more common words to refer to cooking in general are 煮飯 (C: zhǔfàn), 料理 (J: ryouri, C: liàolǐ), 烹飪 (C: pēngrèn), and 調理 (J: chouri)

坩堝

September 15, 2014

Japanese Romaji: rutsubo / kanka

Japanese Meaning: crucible / melting pot

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 大熔爐 (dàrónglú) for “melting pot” (figuratively, the mixing of different ethnicities and cultures)

Parts:

kan - jar / pot

ka - crucible / melting pot

Chinese Pinyin: gān'guō

Chinese Meaning: crucible

Parts:

gān - crucible / earthenware / earthenware vessel

guō - crucible

*Note: none of the characters in the picture have been featured yet

徘徊

September 16, 2014

Japanese Romaji: haikai

Japanese Meaning: loitering / sauntering / wandering about / to wander around / prowl / roam

Parts:

hai - wander

kai - wandering

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word can also be written as 徘徊 or 徘徊

Chinese Pinyin: páihuái

Chinese Meaning: to linger about / wandering / to walk to and fro / to move around without purpose / to pace back and forth / pace up and down / hang about / to hover around / to dither / to hesitate / hesitating / irresolute / to fluctuate

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 躊躇する (chuucho suru) or 思い迷う (omoimayou) for “hesitate” or “irresolute”; 上下する (jouge suru) for “fluctuate”

Parts:

pái - irresolute / walk back and forth / walk to and fro / hesitate / linger

huái - to dither / to hesitate / hesitation / irresolute / to pace back and forth / walk to and fro / linger / tarry

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 徊

箏篳

September 17, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kugo / kuugo

Japanese Meaning: konghou (ancient Chinese harp)

Parts:

ku(kuu) - type of harp

go - type of harp

Chinese Pinyin: kōnghóu

Chinese Meaning: konghou (ancient Chinese harp)

Parts:

kōng - ancient string music instrument (harp) / Chinese harp

hóu - ancient music instrument / harp

涅槃

September 18, 2014

Japanese Romaji: nehan

Japanese Meaning: Nirvana / Buddha's death / salvation

Parts:

ne - black soil

han - tub

Chinese Pinyin: nièpán

Chinese Meaning: Nirvana (Buddhism)

Parts:

niè - to blacken / dye something black / black mud / slime / tattoo / alunite / (abbreviation) Nirvana

pán - wooden tray / plate / dish / saucer / washbasin / washbowl / turn / rotate / coil up / to twist / to wind / search

*Note 1: a Chinese variant of this word is 涅槃

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 湮 The second character is a variant of 盤

玳瑁

September 19, 2014

Japanese Romaji: taimai

Japanese Meaning: hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

Parts:

tai - tortoise shell

mai - ancient Chinese imperial jewels

Chinese Pinyin: dàimào / dàimèi

Chinese Meaning: hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) / tortoise shell

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 玳瑁 (bekkou) for tortoise shell (especially of the hawksbill turtle),
alternatively 龜甲 (kikou/kikkou) for tortoise shell in general

Parts:

dài - tortoise shell / turtle

mào(mèi) - fine piece of jade

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as タイマイ. In Chinese, this word is also written as 玳瑁

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 璚

燕窩

September 20, 2014

Japanese Romaji: enka

Japanese Meaning: swift's nest (can be used to make bird's nest soup) / swallow's nest

Parts:

en(tsubame) - swallow (bird of the Hirundinidae family) / martin / barn swallow (Hirundo rustica) /

younger man involved with an older woman

ka - cave / pouch

*Note 1: in Japanese, this is more commonly known as 燕の巣 (tsubame no su)

Chinese Pinyin: yànwō

Chinese Meaning: swallow's nest (can be used to make bird's nest soup) / swift's nest

Parts:

yàn(yān) - swallow (bird of the Hirundinidae family) / comfort / enjoy / Yan, a vassal state of Zhou in modern Hebei and Liaoning / north Hebei / the four Yan kingdoms of the Sixteen Kingdoms

wō - nest / lair / cave / den / hiding place / hideout / abode / residence / home / pit or hollow on the human body / sunken or hollow place / to harbor or shelter / harbour / conceal / to hold in check / to bend / counter for litters, nests, and broods (e.g. of bees)

*Note 2: 2 variants of the first character are 鷺 and 鰐. The first character is also a variant of 宴

弥縫/彌

September 21, 2014

Japanese Romaji: bihou

Japanese Meaning: patching up / temporizing

Parts:

bi(iya, ya, yo, mi) - all the more / increasingly / more and more / extremely / very

hou(nu, nui) - embroider / sew / stitch

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is used in 弥縫策 (bihousaku) meaning “stopgap measure”

Chinese Pinyin: míféng

Chinese Meaning: to cover up mistakes or crimes / to fill cracks / to stitch up / to fix

Chinese to Japanese Translation: see note 2

Parts:

mí - full / overflowing / pervasive / to fill / cover / make up / completely / complete / extensive / more / even more / still more

féng(fèng) - to sew / to stitch / mend / seam / crack / crevice / narrow slit

*Note 2: in general, this word is used in the figurative sense to temporarily fix or hide something (such as mistakes, weaknesses, conflict, etc.) To literally stitch something up is 縫合 (C: fénghé; J: hougou) or 縫い合わせる (nuiawaseru).

*Note 3: the simplified Chinese version of the first character is the same as for 彌

*Note 4: a variant of the second character is 縫

迂闊/濶

September 22, 2014

Japanese Romaji: ukatsu

Japanese Meaning: careless / thoughtless / heedless / unobservant / inadvertent / incautious / stupid / absentminded / inattentive

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 心不在焉 (xīnbùzàiyān), 漫不經心 (mànbùjīngxīn), 不小心 (bùxiǎoxīn) or 不留神 (bùliúshén)

Parts:

u - roundabout way

katsu - wide

Chinese Pinyin: yūkuò

Chinese Meaning: impractical / unrealistic / high sounding and impractical / high flown nonsense

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 無用 (muyou), 迂遠 (uen), 現実と懸け離れている (genjitsu to kakehanareteiru), or 非現実的 (higenjitsuteki)

Parts:

yū - literal-minded / pedantic / impractical / unrealistic / unpragmatic / trite / doctrinaire / longwinded / circuitous / winding / tortuous / roundabout / abstruse

kuò - wide / broad / vast / ample / be apart / apart / separated / rich / wealthy / extravagant / empty / impractical

譬喩/喩

September 23, 2014

Japanese Romaji: hiyu

Japanese Meaning: simile / metaphor

Parts:

hi(tato) - illustrate

yu(tato) - metaphor

Chinese Pinyin: pìyù

Chinese Meaning: analogy / metaphor / simile

Parts:

pì - to give an example / an example / metaphor / simile / make an analogy / liken / compare

yù - to describe something as / draw an analogy / a simile / a metaphor / an allegory / example / like /
be compared to / explain / make clear / inform / understand / know / comprehend

*Note: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as 比喩. In Chinese, a similar word is 比喻 (bǐyù).

梵唄

September 24, 2014

Japanese Romaji: bonbai

Japanese Meaning: chanting of prayers (Buddhism) / song in praise of Buddhas virtues

Parts:

bon - purity / Sanskrit / Buddhist

bai(uta) - songs played with a shamisen

Chinese Pinyin: fànbài

Chinese Meaning: chanting of prayers (Buddhism)

Parts:

fàn - clean and pure / Sanskrit / Buddhist / abbreviation for 梵教 (Brahmanism) / abbreviation for Sanskrit (梵語 or 梵文) / abbreviation for 梵蒂岡 (the Vatican)

bài(bei) - to chant / modal particle indicating lack of enthusiasm / modal particle indicating that things should only or can only be done a certain way / final particle of assertion / (colloquial) indicates obviousness or grudging agreement

稼穡

September 25, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kashoku

Japanese Meaning: planting and harvesting / farming

Parts:

ka(kase) - earn money / earnings / work

shoku - harvest

Chinese Pinyin: jiàsè

Chinese Meaning: planting and harvesting of grain / farming / agricultural operations / farm work / (literary) sowing and reaping

Parts:

jià - to sow grain / to farm / cultivate / sheaves of grain / (farm) crop / cereals / grain

sè - gather in harvest / farm / harvest grain / stingy

*Note: a variant of the second character is 穡

膀胱

September 26, 2014

Japanese Romaji: boukou

Japanese Meaning: urinary bladder

Parts:

bou - bladder

kou - bladder

Chinese Pinyin: pángguāng

Chinese Meaning: urinary bladder / bladder

Parts:

páng(bǎng, bàng, pāng) - bladder / upper arm / shoulder / wing / to flirt / puffed (swollen) (of body part)

guāng - bladder

*Note: a variant of the first character is 膀

驕傲

September 27, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kyougou

Japanese Meaning: pride / arrogance

Parts:

kyou(ogo) - pride / haughtiness

gou(ogo) - be proud

Chinese Pinyin: jiāo'ào

Chinese Meaning: pride / arrogance / arrogant / conceited / proud of something / haughty / disdainful

Parts:

jiāo - proud / arrogant / conceited / haughty / fierce / intense / severe / spoiled / favourite / untamed / spirited horse

ào - proud / arrogant / haughty / overbearing / defiant / to defy / to despise / disdainful / to look down upon / contemptuous / unyielding / rash and impatient

忌憚

September 28, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kitan

Japanese Meaning: reserve / modesty

Parts:

ki(i, imi, ima) - abhor / detestable / mourning / mourning period / anniversary of one's death

tan(habaka) - hesitate / awe / shrink

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is usually used in the negative (忌憚らない kitan no nai) to mean “frank” or “unreservedly” (i.e. literally “not reserved”).

Chinese Pinyin: jìdàn

Chinese Meaning: fears that keep a person from committing irregularities / to be afraid of the consequences / to dread / dread / scruple / restraining fear

Parts:

jì - to be jealous of / envious / envy / fear / dread / scruple / to avoid or abstain from / shun / to quit / to give up something / death anniversaries of one's parents or grandparents

dàn - dread / fear / afraid of / shirk / dislike / shrink from

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 忌

雇傭

September 29, 2014

Japanese Romaji: koyou

Japanese Meaning: employment (long term) / hire / to engage

Parts:

ko(yato, yatoi) - employ / hire / employee / employment

you(yato, yatoi) - employ / hire / employee / employment

Chinese Pinyin: gùyōng

Chinese Meaning: to employ / to hire / to engage

Parts:

gù - to employ / to hire / engage / to rent

yōng - to hire / to employ / employee / servant / charter / hired laborer / domestic help

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as 雇用. In traditional Chinese, this word can alternatively be written as 僱用 (gùyòng).

*Note 2: the first character is a variant and the simplified Chinese form of 僱. The simplified Chinese version of the second character (佣) is also a separate traditional Chinese character (yòng; commission or brokerage fee).

岐阜

September 30, 2014

Japanese Romaji: gifu

Japanese Meaning: Gifu (a Japanese city or prefecture)

Parts:

gi(ki, chimata) - branch off / fork in road / crossroads / arena / scene / theater / the public / street / district / quarters / location (of a battle, etc.) / divide (e.g. between life and death)

fu - hill / mound

Chinese Pinyin: qífù

Chinese Meaning: Gifu (a Japanese city or prefecture)

Parts:

qí - high / majestic / fork in road / divergent / side road / steep / traditional Chinese medicine

fù - mound / small hill / abundant / ample / numerous / flourishing / the continent / the mainland

*Note: the picture only includes things I've seen myself when travelling in Gifu: Seki swordsmithing, sarubobo in Takayama, and gassho-zukuri in Shirakawa-go.

欄杆/欄

October 1, 2014

Japanese Romaji: rankan

Japanese Meaning: a (hand) railing / guardrail / handrail / banister / bannister / parapet

Parts:

ran - blank / field (in a form, web page, etc.) / space / column of text (e.g. in a newspaper) / handrail

kan - pole / shield

Chinese Pinyin: lángān

Chinese Meaning: railing / handrail / banister / bannister / balustrade

Parts:

lán - fence / railing / balustrade / banister / bannister / column or box (of text or other data) / column (in forms, newspapers, etc.) / board (for putting up notices, etc.) / shed / pen (for domestic animals) / animal pen / (sports) hurdles

gān - pole / shaft of spear / staff / rod / post

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as 欄干 and alternatively as 闌干. In Chinese, this word is alternatively written as 闌干. (All of these variants also have additional meanings other than "railing").

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 欄. The second character is also the simplified Chinese version of 桿

芒硝

October 2, 2014

Japanese Romaji: boushou

Japanese Meaning: sodium sulfate (sulphate) decahydrate ($\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$) / mirabilite / Glauber's salt

Japanese to Chinese Translation: see note 2

Parts:

bou(susuki, nogi) - Japanese pampas grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*) / silver grass / zebra grass / beard (grain) / arista / awn

shou - nitrate / saltpeter

*Note 1: in Japanese, "glass" can be written as ガラス or 硝子 (read as "garasu").

Chinese Pinyin: mángxīāoChinese Meaning: sodium sulfate (sulphate) decahydrate ($\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$) / mirabilite / Glauber's salt

Chinese to Japanese Translation: see note 2

Parts:

máng - awn (of cereals) / arista (of grain) / beard (of grass) / needle-like things / tip (of a blade) /

Miscanthus sinensis (type of grass) / Chinese silvergrass / (loanword) mango

xiāo - saltpeter / niter / to tan (leather) / tawing

*Note 2: (this note contains technical chemistry terms). This word technically refers to the decahydrate ($10\text{H}_2\text{O}$) form of sodium sulphate. The anhydrous form of sodium sulphate (Na_2SO_4) is known as 硫酸 ナトリウム (ryuusan natoriumu) in Japanese and 硫酸鈉 (liúsuān'nà) in Chinese. In non-technical contexts, each term is interchangeable. (Side note, "hydrates" are known as 水和物 [suiwabutsu] in Japanese and as 水合物 [shuǐhéwù] in Chinese).

*Note 3: the first character is also a variant of 𪛗. Another variant of the first character is 𪛗

灌溉/溉/灌

October 3, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kangai

Japanese Meaning: irrigation

Parts:

kan(soso) - pour

gai(soso) - pour

*Note: in Japanese, the first version of the first character is more commonly used. The second version is interchangeable.

Chinese Pinyin: guàn'gài

Chinese Meaning: to irrigate / irrigation

Parts:

guàn - to irrigate / water / to pour / to fill / flood / to install (software) / to record (music/sound) / cut (disc) / force somebody to drink (water, alcohol, etc.)

gài - to irrigate / flood / water / wash

瘴癘

October 4, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shourei

Japanese Meaning: tropical disease (e.g. malaria)

Parts:

shou - miasma

rei - contagious disease / leprosy

Chinese Pinyin: zhànglì

Chinese Meaning: tropical disease or epidemic attributed to miasma / malaria / poisonous vapor

Parts:

zhàng - miasma / malaria / pestilential vapors

lì - plague / pestilence / ulcer / a sore

伍箇

October 5, 2014

Japanese Romaji: goko

Japanese Meaning: five (general objects)

Parts:

go(itsu) - five (in legal documents) / fifth / 5-man squad / file / line

ko(ka, ga) - counter for things / counter for articles / counter for military units / individual / counter for the ichi-ni-san counting system (usually directly preceding the item being counted) / a noun read using its on-yomi

Chinese Pinyin: wǔgè

Chinese Meaning: five (general objects)

Parts:

wǔ - five (in legal documents) / army / troops / to associate with / keep company with / company of five / squad of five soldiers / (archaism) five-man unit of the army

gè - counter for objects in general / counter for people / individual / single / piece / unit / this / that / size

*Note 1: the second character is a variant of 個 (a common counter for general objects) but isn't always interchangeable. In Japanese, the second character (read as "ka") is often abbreviated as ケ (e.g. when counting months) and sometimes as か, カ, カ, or ケ. Further information about these characters is below:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Small_ke

*Note 2: since the kanji for numerals are very simple to write, alternate kanji are used in legal and financial documents to prevent forgeries. The formal Chinese numbers are called 大寫 (dàxiě) and in order from one to ten (traditional) are: 壹貳參肆伍陸柒捌玖拾. The formal forms of 100 and 1000 are 佰 and 仟 respectively. The formal Japanese numbers are called 大字 (daiji) and used to be identical to the Chinese numbers, but are now simplified to: 壱貳參四五六七八九拾百千

甕棺

October 6, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kamekan

Japanese Meaning: funerary urn / burial urn (often two-storey)

Parts:

kame(mika) - earthenware pot / (archaism) large earthenware pot (for brewing sake) / jar / jug / vat

kan(hitsugi) - coffin / casket

Chinese Pinyin: wèngguān

Chinese Meaning: funerary urn

Parts:

wèng - pottery container for water, wine, etc. / urn / earthen jar / jar for ashes

guān - coffin

*Note: 2 variants of the first character are 瓮 and 甕

伶俐

October 7, 2014

Japanese Romaji: reiri

Japanese Meaning: clever / cleverness / sagacity

Parts:

rei - actor

ri - clever

Chinese Pinyin: línglì

Chinese Meaning: clever / witty / bright / smart / intelligent / cute / sharp

Parts:

líng - actor / actress / entertainer / intelligent / lonely / solitary / clever / bright

lì - clever / sharp / nimble / dextrous / smooth / active

*Note: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as 伶俐 and alternatively as 伶俐. In Chinese, this word is alternatively written as 伶俐

捌斤

October 8, 2014

Japanese Romaji: hakkin

Japanese Meaning: eight catties (a catty is a traditional Asian unit of mass; see definitions below)

Parts:

hachi(saba, sabaki, ha, ya, yatsu, you) - deal with / to handle / be in demand / demand for / sale / sell / dispose of / drainage / be sensible / be sociable / be frank / be worldly / eight (in legal documents)
kin - loaf (of bread, 340 g) / counter for loaves of bread / a catty (traditional Asian unit of mass. Some current measures include: China = 500 g [aka “market catty”, 市斤 shījīn]; Japan, Taiwan and Thailand = 600 g; Hong Kong and Macau = 604.78982 g; Malaysia = 604.79 g; Singapore = 604.8 g) / 1.32 lb / (archaism) pound (unit of mass: 453.6g) / an axe / an ax

Chinese Pinyin: bājīn

Chinese Meaning: eight catties (a catty is a traditional Asian unit of mass; see definitions below)

Parts:

bā - eight (in legal documents) / break open / split open / to pull apart / to break
jīn - a catty (traditional Asian unit of mass. Some current measures include: China = 500 g [aka “market catty”, 市斤 shījīn]; Japan, Taiwan and Thailand = 600 g; Hong Kong and Macau = 604.78982 g; Malaysia = 604.79 g; Singapore = 604.8 g) / an axe / an ax / keen in observation / shrewd

*Note 1: since the kanji for numerals are very simple to write, alternate kanji are used in legal and financial documents to prevent forgeries. The formal Chinese numbers are called 大寫 (dàxiě) and in order from one to ten (traditional) are: 壹貳參肆伍陸柒捌玖拾. The formal forms of 100 and 1000 are 佰 and 仟 respectively. The formal Japanese numbers are called 大字 (daiji) and used to be identical to the Chinese numbers, but are now simplified to: 壱貳參四五六七八九拾百千

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 觔

玖畝

October 9, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kyuuse / kyuuhō

Japanese Meaning: [kyuuse] nine Japanese se / [kyuuhō] nine mu, mau, or bó (se, mu, mau, and bó are traditional Asian units of land area; see definitions below)

Parts:

kyuu(ku, kokono) - nine (in legal documents) / beautiful black jewel

se(ho, une) - mu, mau, bó, or se (traditional Asian unit of land area. Some current measures include:

Chinese mu and Hong Kongese mau = ~666.67 square meters [1/15 hectare]; Taiwanese bó and

Japanese se = 99.173554 square meters [30 tsubo]; Macanese mau = 761.4 square meters) / furrow / ridge (in hilling) / rib (ribbing in cloth, materials, etc.)

Chinese Pinyin: jiǔmǔ

Chinese Meaning: nine mu, mau, bó, or se (these are traditional Asian units of land area; see definitions below)

Parts:

jiǔ - nine (in legal documents) / a black jade stone / black-colored jade

mǔ - mu, mau, bó, or se (traditional Asian unit of land area. Some current measures include: Chinese mu and Hong Kongese mau = ~666.67 square meters [1/15 hectare]; Taiwanese bó and Japanese se = 99.173554 square meters [30 tsubo]; Macanese mau = 761.4 square meters) / ridge / furrow / fields / counter for fields

*Note 1: since the kanji for numerals are very simple to write, alternate kanji are used in legal and financial documents to prevent forgeries. The formal Chinese numbers are called 大寫 (dàxiě) and in order from one to ten (traditional) are: 壹貳參肆伍陸柒捌玖拾. The formal forms of 100 and 1000 are 佰 and 仟 respectively. The formal Japanese numbers are called 大字 (daiji) and used to be identical to the Chinese numbers, but are now simplified to: 壱貳參四五六七八九拾百千

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 玖. 5 variants of the second character are: 畝畝畝畝畝

聯繫/繫

October 10, 2014

Japanese Romaji: renkei

Japanese Meaning: connection / linking / linkage / link

Parts:

ren - clique / gang / party

kei(tsun, gai, kaka) - connect / tie / chain / fasten / tether / attach / unite

Chinese Pinyin: liánxì

Chinese Meaning: connection / contact / relation / relationship / association / to relate / to link / to integrate / to touch / to get in touch with / to maintain communications, contact, or liaison / to unite / to join together (under a cause, etc.)

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 連携 (renkei) for "cooperation" (i.e. uniting for a common goal)

Parts:

lián - to ally / to unite / to associate / to join / connect / make an alliance with / allied (forces, etc.) / joint (effort, etc.) / mutual (guarantees, etc.)

xì(jì) - to connect / to link / to join / attach / to arrest / to tie / to fasten / unite / bind up / relate to / bear on / depend on / be concerned / to worry / miss / bind to / to button up / wear / knot / to hang up

*Note 1: in general, this word can mean any connection or relationship between physical objects, abstract concepts, people, etc.

*Note 2: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as 連係 and secondly as 連繫. In Chinese, this word is alternatively written as 聯係

*Note 3: 2 variants of the first character are 聯 and 聯

*Note 4: the simplified Chinese version of the second character (系) is a separate traditional character as well as the simplified Chinese version of 係.

欠缺

October 11, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kenketsu

Japanese Meaning: lacuna / gap where something is lacked / shortcoming / defect

Parts:

ken(ka, ketsu) - lack / deficiency / vacancy / fail / gap / yawning radical

ketsu(ka) - lack / deficiency / vacancy / fail / gap

*Note 1: in Japanese, 欠伸 (to yawn) is read as "akubi"

Chinese Pinyin: qiànquē

Chinese Meaning: lapse / deficiency / to lack / be deficient in / be short of / shortcomings

Parts:

qiàn - be deficient / to lack / short of / lacking / not enough / to owe / owe money / raise slightly (a part of the body / yawn

quē - deficiency / deficient / lack / to run short of / be short of / gap / deficit / scarce / imperfect / damaged / defective / absent from / not attend / vacancy / opening / vacant post / vacant position

*Note 2: in Japanese, both characters are variants of each other; the first character is more commonly used. A Chinese variant of the second character is 闕. A variant of both characters is 缺

如是

October 12, 2014

Japanese Romaji: nyoze

Japanese Meaning: (Buddhism) "like this" (often the opening word of a sutra) / (abbreviation) ten suchnesses (in Tendai / Tiantai)

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 十如是 (shírúshì) for "ten suchnesses"

Parts:

nyo(goto, jo, shi) - likeness / like / similar to / same as / such as / as if / equal / better / best / (Buddhism) tathata (the ultimate nature of all things)

ze(kore) - righteousness / justice / right / just so / this (indicating an item near the speaker, the action of the speaker, or the current topic) / (humble (kenjougo) language) this person (usually indicating someone in one's in-group) / now / (archaism) here / (archaism) I (me) / (archaism) certainly

*Note 1: in Japanese, both characters can be used in several common words which are not usually written in kanji. These include 如何 (dou, ikaga, ika, ikan) for the first character and the "kore" reading for the second character. The first character is also used in 如月 (kisaragi), the traditional name of the second month of the Japanese lunar calendar.

Chinese Pinyin: rúshì

Chinese Meaning: thus / like so / such / like this

Chinese to Japanese Translation: その通り (sono toori), このように (kono you ni), そのように (sono you ni), etc.

Parts:

rú - if / as if / supposing / as / like / such as / as good as / equal to / follow (advice) / listen to / go to / arrive at / should / ought / on time / in time

shì - is / are / am / to be / yes (as answer to a question) / indeed / right / true / correct / positive / demonstrative pronoun / this / that / which

*Note 2: the general meaning of this word is "in this way". The Chinese definition is more general while the Japanese definition is usually limited to religious contexts.

*Note 3: in Chinese, both characters are in the top 100 most commonly used characters (shì is in the top 5). In Japanese, both characters are between the 1000-2000 most commonly used characters.

*Note 4: a variant of the second character is 是

頂戴

October 13, 2014

Japanese Romaji: choudai

Japanese Meaning: (Humble (kenjougo) language) receiving, reception, getting, being given, be presented with / (Humble (kenjougo) language) eating, drinking, having a meal/ (Expression) (Familiar language) (Female term or language) (also used after -te forms) please, please do for me

Japanese to Chinese Translation: see note 1; 請給我 (qǐng'gěiwǒ) for "please give me"

Parts:

chou(itada, itadaki, jou) - peak / summit (of mountain) / top / top of the head / crown (of the head) / place onto the head / spire / receive / easy win for one / something received

dai(itada, itadaki, tai) - be crowned with / live under (a ruler) / receive

Chinese Pinyin: dǐngdài

Chinese Meaning: cap badge (official sign of rank in Qing dynasty) / (Qing dynasty) the color and quality of the bead on the ceremonial hat of an official, which indicates the wearer's rank / to salute or pay respects to / to wear on one's head / be thankful

Chinese to Japanese Translation: see note 1; 敬礼 (keirei) for "salute"; 被る (kaburu) for "wear on one's head"; 感謝 (kansha) or 有り難がる (arigataru) for "thankful"

Parts:

dǐng - apex / crown of the head / top / peak / roof / to carry on the head / to push to the top / push from below or behind / to go against / most / very / exceedingly / best / retort / answer back / turn down / to replace / to substitute / take the place of / withstand / stand up / be equal to / to be subjected to (an aerial bombing, hailstorm, etc.) / (slang) to "bump" a forum thread to raise its profile / counter for headwear, hats, veils, anything that has a top, etc.

dài - to put on or wear (glasses, hat, gloves, jewelry, wristwatches, accessories, etc.) / wear on top / to respect / to bear / to support

*Note 1: in simple terms, this word in Japanese is an alternative form of (1) 下さい [kudasai] which means "please do for me" and often comes after the te-form in Japanese grammar; or (2) いただく / 頂く / 戴く [itadaku] which is a humble form of "to receive", "to eat", or "to drink". Meaning (1) is mostly spoken by females or children. In Chinese, this word specifically refers to the ornament (usually precious stones) on headgear worn by officials in the Qing dynasty to signify rank. Thus, there is no exact translation between Japanese and Chinese.

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 俥

膿疱/皰

October 14, 2014

Japanese Romaji: nouhou

Japanese Meaning: pustule

Parts:

nou(umi, u) - pus / fester / discharge

hou(bou) - blister / smallpox

Chinese Pinyin: nóngpào

Chinese Meaning: pimple containing pus / pustule

Parts:

nóng - pus / purulent matter

pào - pimple / acne / blister / a boil / ulcer / bleb

*Note: the first version of the second character is a variant and the simplified Chinese form of the second version. In Japanese, the second version of the second character is only used in 面皰 (nikibi) meaning “pimple”. Another variant of the second character is 皰

孝悌

October 15, 2014

Japanese Romaji: koutei

Japanese Meaning: filial piety / brotherly love

Parts:

kou(kyou) - filial piety / child's respect

tei - serving our elders / respect for one's elders / harmony among siblings

Chinese Pinyin: xiàotì

Chinese Meaning: filial piety and fraternal duty / to be a dutiful son and to be respectful towards one's elder brothers

Parts:

xiào - filial piety / obedience / do one's filial duty / show filial respect / mourning apparel / mourning / mourning dress / bereaved

tì - to do one's duty as a younger brother / brotherly / respectful

*Note 1: this word can also be written as 孝弟

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 弟 (which is also a separate character meaning "younger brother")

蟄伏

October 16, 2014

Japanese Romaji: chippuku

Japanese Meaning: hibernation / staying home or in place

Parts:

chitsu - hibernation of insects

puku(fu, bu, pu, fuku, buku, fushi, bushi) - to cover / bend down / to bow / prostrated / lay (pipes)

Chinese Pinyin: zhéfú

Chinese Meaning: to hibernate / hibernation / living in seclusion / to lie low / dormant

Parts:

zhé - to hibernate

fú - to lean over / bend over / stoop over / lie prostrate / lie prone on / to hide (in ambush) / lie hidden / to conceal oneself / to lie low / crouch / crawl / subside / to fall (go down) / hottest days of summer / hot season / dog days / to surrender / to yield / to submit / to concede defeat / admit defeat / force to surrender / to overcome / to subdue / vanquish / volt

*Note: when referring to animal hibernation, more common terms are 冬眠 (J:toumin; C: dōngmián) and 越冬 (J:ettou; C: yuèdōng).

綺羅

October 17, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kira

Japanese Meaning: fine clothes / fine silks / person dressed in fine clothes / gorgeous

Japanese to Chinese Translation: see note 1, 華麗 (huáli) for “gorgeous”, 榮華 (rónghuá) for “glory and splendour”, 美麗 (měilì) for “beautiful”, 漂亮 (piàoliang) for “pretty” or “beautiful”, etc.

Parts:

ki(gi) - beautiful / figured cloth / (archaism) thin twilled silk fabric

ra(roo, usumono) - lightweight fabric or clothing / think silk / silk gauze / (abbreviation) Latin (language) / (abbreviation) Rome

Chinese Pinyin: qǐluó

Chinese Meaning: (archaic) fine silks / beautiful silk fabrics / beautiful clothes / person in beautiful silk dress / beautiful

Chinese to Japanese Translation: see note 1

Parts:

qǐ - elegant / beautiful / gorgeous / fine, thin silk / open-work silk / figured woven silk material / damask

luó - silk gauze / light silk fabric / to collect / to gather together / display / spread out / to catch / sieve / to sift / shake through a sieve / bird snare / net for catching birds / catch birds with a net

*Note 1: the Chinese term is archaic and more specific in referring to fine silk fabrics or the people wearing them. The Japanese term is more general in referring to any fine clothing, the people wearing those clothes, or anything beautiful in general.

*Note 2: the interpretation of Japanese words using the Roman alphabet is known as ローマ字 (rōmaji). “rōmaji” can also be written as 羅馬字.

颯爽

October 18, 2014

Japanese Romaji: sassou

Japanese Meaning: gallant / dashing / jaunty / smart / in a stately manner / brisk / fresh / refreshing

Parts:

satsu - quick / sudden / sound of the wind

sou(sawa) - clear / refreshing / sweet / resonant / bracing

Chinese Pinyin: sàshuǎng

Chinese Meaning: heroic / valiant / strong and vigorous / powerful / stalwart / refreshing

Parts:

sà - the sound of the wind / (onomatopoeia) whistling, rustling / valiant / heroic / vigorous / bleak / melancholy / withered / weakened / declining

shuǎng - refreshing / bright / crisp / clear / bracing / open / frank / straightforward / candid / hearty / cheerful / pleasurable / happy / joyful / fine / to feel well / comfortable / feeling high, great, terrific / invigorating / quick / brisk / agile / enthusiastic / to deviate / fail / to miss / perplexed

*Note 1: this word generally can describe (1) a person who displays “heroic” qualities and/or leaves a good, strong impression or (2) something cool, clean, and/or refreshing (e.g. a cool breeze).

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 颯

奔騰

October 19, 2014

Japanese Romaji: hontou

Japanese Meaning: price jump / boom / soar (up) / advance suddenly / to skyrocket / sudden rise

Japanese to Chinese Translation: see note 1, 飆升 (biāoshēng), 激增 (jīzēng), 暴漲 (bàozhǎng), 猛增 (měngzēng), etc.

Parts:

hon(hashi, pon) - bustle / run

tou(a) - advancing / going / inflation

Chinese Pinyin: bēnténg

Chinese Meaning: (of waves) to surge forward / to roll on in waves / to roll in surges / to gallop

Chinese to Japanese Translation: see note 1, 逆巻く (sakamaku), 沸き立つ (wakidatsu), 飛び跳ねる (tobihaneru), 熱狂 (nekkyou), 疾駆 (shikku), ギャロップ (gyaroppu), etc.

Parts:

bēn(bèn) - to hurry / to rush about / to run quickly / run fast / hasten / dash / flee / to elope / escape in a hurry / to go to / to head for / go straight towards / towards / bustle about for / (of age) get on for / approach

téng - to soar / to fly / to rise / move upward / to gallop / to jump / to prance / to run / to turn over / to vacate / to clear out / to make room

*Note 1: None of the translations are exact. In Japanese, this word is usually used in a financial context to refer to a sharp increase (e.g. sudden rise or surge in prices). In Chinese, this can refer to anything that can "surge" like a wave (e.g. a running horse [original meaning], ocean, river, tides, landslide, fervor, emotion, etc.)

*Note 2: 2 variants of the first character are 犇 and 遴

諸侯

October 20, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shokou

Japanese Meaning: princes / feudal lords

Parts:

sho(moro, jo) - many / several / together / various

kou - lord / marquis / daimyo

Chinese Pinyin: zhūhóu

Chinese Meaning: feudal vassal / feudal lord / feudal princes, especially the monarchs (dukes or princes) of the several vassal states 諸侯國 of Zhou during Western Zhou and Spring and Autumn periods

11th-5th century BC / dukes or princes under an emperor / member of the Chinese nobility / subordinate warlord / local official

Parts:

zhū - all / various / several / many / every / each

hóu - marquis, second of the five orders of ancient Chinese nobility / marquess / lord / nobleman / high-ranking official / target in archery

*Note: a variant of the first character is 諸 A variant of the second character is 侯

輔佐

October 21, 2014

Japanese Romaji: hosa

Japanese Meaning: aid / help / assistance / assistant / counselor / counsellor / adviser / advisor /an aide

Parts:

ho(tasu, fu) - help

sa(tasu) - assistant / help

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as 補佐

Chinese Pinyin: fǔzuǒ

Chinese Meaning: to assist (usually a ruler)

Parts:

fǔ - to assist / to complement / auxiliary / supplement / subsidiary / protective / (archaic) protective wooden bars that helped prevent a carriage from overturning / (archaic) cheek bone

zuǒ - to assist / aid / assistant / aide / to accompany / second / subordinate

*Note 2: this word is usually used in the context of “assisting” authoritative figures (such as rulers or leaders).

*Note 3: a variant of the first character is 備 A variant of the second character is 左 (which is also a separate character)

俸禄/祿

October 22, 2014

Japanese Romaji: houroku

Japanese Meaning: retainer's stipend / official pay / salary

Parts:

hou(pou) - salary / stipend

roku - allowance / stipend / reward / fief / a grant / pension / happiness

Chinese Pinyin: fènglù

Chinese Meaning: official's salary (in feudal times) / emoluments / a government salary

Parts:

fèng - salary / wages / pay / official emolument

lù - good fortune / blessing / happiness / prosperity / official's salary in feudal China / official's pay / emolument / wealth

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: more common terms for "salary" or "wages" are 給料 (kyuuryou) in Japanese and 工資 (gōngzī) in Chinese.

*Note 3: characters which have the left radical 礻 (4 strokes) often appear with it replaced by 示. The second version of this radical is usually used in older Japanese or Chinese texts as well as standard in certain printed characters. The radical itself usually means that the entire character has something to do with gods. Note that the first version should not be confused with the radical 衤 (which has 5 strokes and is based on 衣 for clothing).

貢賦

October 23, 2014

Japanese Romaji: koufu

Japanese Meaning: tribute and taxation

Parts:

kou(mitsu, gu) - tribute / finance / support

fu(pu, bu) - installment / levy / tribute / ode / poem / narrative (style of the Shi Jing) / classical Chinese rhymed prose

Chinese Pinyin: gòngfù

Chinese Meaning: tribute

Parts:

gòng - to offer tribute / to pay tribute / a tribute / gifts / (archaic) recommend or select talents /

(Cantonese) loiter, scamper, unsteadily, shakily, burrow

fù - tax / levy / taxation / to bestow on / to endow with / to grant / give / natural endowment / natural gift / poetic essay / poetic or rhyme prose / compose a poem / a Chinese form of poem or essay / army / diffuse

攘夷

October 24, 2014

Japanese Romaji: joui

Japanese Meaning: anti-foreign sentiment / exclusion of foreigners / expulsion of the foreigners / exclusionism

Parts:

jou - chase away / steal

i(ebisu, zo) - (derogatory) foreigner / barbarian / savage / (archaism) peoples formerly of northern Japan with distinct language and culture (i.e. the Ainu) / provincial (i.e. a person who lives far from the city) / brutish, unsophisticated warrior (especially used by Kyoto samurai to refer to samurai from eastern Japan) / Ebisu (god of fishing and commerce)

*Note: in Japanese, 辛夷 (Magnolia Kobus) is read as "kobushi"

Chinese Pinyin: rǎngyí

Chinese Meaning: to repel the barbarians / resisting the foreigners

Parts:

rǎng(rang) - to reject or resist / fend off / repel / to seize / to grab / to take by force / to perturb / chaotic / disorderly / to steal / to push up one's sleeves / roll up one's sleeves

yí - non-Han people, especially to the East of China / ancient barbarian tribes / to wipe out / to exterminate / eliminate / to tear down / to raze / lay flat / level to the ground / smooth / safe / even / (archaism) foreign countries / foreigners

弩砲

October 25, 2014

Japanese Romaji: dohou

Japanese Meaning: ballista

Parts:

do(ishiyumi) - bow (for arrows) / crossbow (including large models operated by a number of people) / netted apparatus atop a wall containing large stones, which were dropped onto attackers by cutting the net / slingshot / catapult

hou(pou, juu) - cannon / gun / artillery / ordnance / rifle / small arms

Chinese Pinyin: nǚpào

Chinese Meaning: catapult / ballista (siege catapult firing stone blocks) / a sling shot

Parts:

nǚ - cross-bow / crossbow (used to shoot arrows in ancient times) / bow / downward stroke

pào - cannon / big gun / mortar / firecracker / catapult

*Note: the second character is also a variant of 炮 (which is also a separate character).

答刑

October 25, 2014

Japanese Romaji: chikei

Japanese Meaning: flogging

Parts:

chi(muchi, shimoto) - whip / rod / lash / scourge / stick / cane / pointer / crime punishable by flogging / (archaism) light caning (10-50 times) / (archaism) switch (flogging implement made from a branch)

kei - penalty / punishment / punish / sentence (punishment) / regulation

Chinese Pinyin: chīxíng

Chinese Meaning: flogging / cane punishment / whipping with bamboo strips (as corporal punishment in former times)

Parts:

chī - to whip with bamboo strips / bamboo rod used for beatings

xíng - punishment / penalty / law / sentence (punishment) / torture / corporal punishment

陪侍

October 26, 2014

Japanese Romaji: baiji

Japanese Meaning: retainer / attending on the nobility

Parts:

bai - accompany / attend on / follow / obeisance

ji(samurai, zamurai, saburai, habe) - samurai / warrior (especially of military retainers of daimyos in the Edo period) / (archaism) man in attendance (on a person of high standing) / retainer / servant / one who serves nearby / to serve / wait upon / waiter

Chinese Pinyin: péishì

Chinese Meaning: to assist in attendance / to wait upon (older people) / to accompany / attendant

Parts:

péi - to accompany / to keep somebody company / escort / be with / to go with / keep company / to assist / to help / attend somebody

shì - to serve / to attend upon / wait upon / attendant / servant / samurai

*Note 1: in general, this word refers to the act of accompanying and serving someone (usually of high status or seniority); or someone who does this.

*Note 2: the first character is also an old variant of 賠 (which is also a separate character)

奉祀

October 26, 2014

Japanese Romaji: houshi

Japanese Meaning: enshrine

Parts:

hou(tatematsu, matsu, bu, pou, bou) - dedicate / offer / to present / observance

shi(matsu) - enshrine / worship

Chinese Pinyin: fèngsì

Chinese Meaning: enshrined / to offer sacrifices (to the dead, to gods, to ancestors, etc.) / to consecrate / dedicated to

Parts:

fèng - to offer (tribute) / to present respectfully (to superior, ancestor, deity, etc.) / submit respectfully / to esteem / to revere / venerate / to respect / to believe in (a religion, etc.) / to wait upon / to wait on / attend to / to accept orders (from superior) / to receive (order from one's superior) / to serve / having the honour to

sì - to sacrifice / to worship / to offer libation to

*Note 1: in general, this word describes acts (e.g. enshrining, offering sacrifice, worshipping, etc.) which pay respect to someone or something (e.g. gods, ancestors, spirits, etc.)

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 禩

*Note 3: characters which have the left radical 礻 (4 strokes) often appear with it replaced by 示. The second version of this radical is usually used in older Japanese or Chinese texts as well as standard in certain printed characters. The radical itself usually means that the entire character has something to do with gods. Note that the first version should not be confused with the radical 衤 (which has 5 strokes and is based on 衣 for clothing).

狂躁

October 27, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kyouso

Japanese Meaning: mania / manic / wild excitement / the maddening noise (e.g. hustle and bustle of a city)

Japanese to Chinese Translation: see note 2

Parts:

kyou(kuru, guru, fu, chiga) - crazy / insane / lunatic / confuse / (some type of) enthusiast / somebody possessed of a (certain kind of) mental abnormality

sou - noisy

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as 狂騒

Chinese Pinyin: kuángzào

Chinese Meaning: mania / manic / rash / impetuous / irritable / impatient

Chinese to Japanese Translation: see note 2; 躁病 (soubyou) for the illness of "mania"

Parts:

kuáng - insane / crazy / mad / wild / violent / arrogant / unruly / wildly / unrestrainedly / boisterously

zào - hot-tempered / impatient / rash / tense / excited / irritable / restless / impetuous

*Note 2: the Japanese meaning is more general as it can describe anything manic, frantic, turbulent, or irregular (such as a bustling city or era, a turbulent experience, rhapsodies, etc.) In Chinese, this word is more specific in describing mania in human or animal behaviour (such as violence, madness, or overexcitement caused by stress, illness, anger, etc.) Both definitions can describe something not "normal".

梧桐

October 28, 2014

Japanese Romaji: aogiri / gotou

Japanese Meaning: Chinese parasol tree (Firmiana simplex; Firmiana platanifolia; Sterculia platanifolia) / Chinese bottle tree / Japanese varnish tree / varnish tree / phoenix tree / a firmiana

Parts:

ao(go) - Chinese parasol tree (Firmiana simplex; Firmiana platanifolia; Sterculia platanifolia) / phoenix tree

giri(kiri, tou) - paulownia tree / Paulownia tomentosa

Chinese Pinyin: wútóng

Chinese Meaning: Chinese parasol tree (Firmiana simplex; Firmiana platanifolia; Sterculia platanifolia) / Chinese bottle tree / Japanese varnish tree / varnish tree / phoenix tree / a firmiana / wutong or Paulownia tree / a lightweight strong wood used for making musical instruments

Chinese to Japanese Translation: see note 2; 桐 (kiri) for “paulownia”

Parts:

wú - Chinese parasol tree (Firmiana simplex; Firmiana platanifolia; Sterculia platanifolia)

tóng - paulownia / Chinese parasol tree / phoenix tree / Chinese wood-oil tree (Aleurites cordata) / tung oil tree / name applied to various trees

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as アオギリ (aogiri) and alternatively as 青桐 (aogiri / gotou). In Chinese, this word is also known as 青桐 (qīngtóng).

*Note 2: scientifically speaking, this word refers to the species “Firmiana simplex” and it has several names. Culturally speaking, the Chinese term can refer to several different species of trees (some of which are used for making musical instruments).

棕櫚

October 29, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shuro / suro

Japanese Meaning: hemp palm / palm tree / Chinese windmill palm (Trachycarpus fortunei) / windmill palm / Chusan palm / trachycarpus

Parts:

shu(su, ju) - hemp palm

ro - kind of quince

*Note 1: in Japanese, this is more commonly written as シュロ (shuro) , and alternatively as 棕梠 or 欖欏

Chinese Pinyin: zōnglǔ

Chinese Meaning: palm tree / hemp palm / Chinese windmill palm (Trachycarpus fortunei) / windmill palm / Chusan palm / trachycarpus / palmetto

Parts:

zōng - hemp palm / palm tree / palm fiber / palm fibre / coir (coconut fiber) / brown

lǔ - palm tree / palmetto

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 欖

茉莉

October 30, 2014

Japanese Romaji: matsuri

Japanese Meaning: jasmine (jasminum genus of plants) / Arabian jasmine (Jasminum sambac)

Parts:

matsu - jasmine

ri - jasmine

Chinese Pinyin: mòlì

Chinese Meaning: jasmine (jasminum genus of plants) / Arabian jasmine (Jasminum sambac)

Parts:

mò - white jasmine

lì(li) - white jasmine

*Note: this word (1) scientifically refers to the plant genus “jasminum” or any plant in it and (2) is commonly used to refer to the specific species “Jasminum sambac”. In Japanese, meaning (1) is also written as マツリ (matsuri) or also known as 素馨属 (sokeizoku) while “jasmine” is more commonly known as ジャスミン (jasumin); meaning (2) is more specifically defined with 茉莉花 / マツリカ (matsurika). In Chinese, meaning (1) is also known as 素馨屬 (sùxīnzhǔ) or 茉莉花 (mòlihuā); meaning (2) is more specifically defined with 雙瓣茉莉 (shuāngbàn mòlì).

凄惨/惨

October 31, 2014

Japanese Romaji: seisan

Japanese Meaning: ghastly / gruesome / grim / appalling / lurid / horrifying / horrible / frightful / ugly / atrocious / horrid / fearful / hideous / outrageous / horrific

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 惨不忍睹 (cǎnbùrěndǔ); see note 1

Parts:

sei - be sad / be sorrowful

san(miji, mugo, zan) - cruelty / harsh / wretched / disaster / pitiful / sad

Chinese Pinyin: qīcǎn

Chinese Meaning: tragic / heartrending / heartbreaking / plaintive / mournful / miserable / wretched / pitiable

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 悲惨 (hisan), 惨め (mijime), or 痛ましい (itamashii); see note 1

Parts:

qī - sad / mournful / sorrowful / grieved / melancholy / afflicted / tragic / pathetic / pitiful / grievous

cǎn - miserable / wretched / sad / pitiful / tragic / cruel / inhuman / savage / merciless / brutal / disastrous / severe / crushing / dim / gloomy / dull

*Note 1: In Japanese, this word is closer to describing something as being so physically horrifying that one can't help but avert their eyes (e.g. from an accident, battlefield, etc.) The Chinese term is closer to describing the atmosphere or the negative emotions (e.g. despair, pity, fear, etc.) one might feel from seeing, hearing about, or experiencing something unsettling. Both meanings can intersect.

*Note 2: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as 凄惨. In Chinese, this word can also be written as 凄惨 (traditional) and 凄惨 (simplified).

*Note 3: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 4: the first character is also a Chinese variant of 凄. Both have the same simplified form (凄) that is also a third separate traditional character. All three are often confused due to similar meanings and written form.

凄愴

October 31, 2014

Japanese Romaji: seisou

Japanese Meaning: pathetic / dreadful / sad / melancholy / dreary / dismal / desolate (scene, etc.)

Parts:

sei(sugo, susa) - horrible / threatening / uncanny / weird

sou - pathetic / sad

*Note 1: in Japanese, the first character can be used in 凄い (sugoi), which can have negative or positive meanings depending on context (e.g. terrible, horrible, awful, amazing, great, wonderful, awesome, vast, etc.)

Chinese Pinyin: qīchuàng

Chinese Meaning: pitiful / painful / heartrending / heartbreaking / miserable / pitiable / wretched / pathetic / saddening / cold / dreary / desolate

Parts:

qī - intense cold / bitter cold / frigid / chilly / cold / freezing / cloudy and rainy / miserable / dreary / dismal / grim / bleak / desolate / sad / mournful / sorrow / sorrowful

chuàng - mournful / sad / broken-hearted / grieved / disconsolate / sorry

*Note 2: this word describes something so tragic, pitiful, heartrending, mournful or miserable that it can cause someone to feel emotional pain (such as sadness, sorrow, pity, heartbreak, desolation, etc.) This word also describes the emotions felt by witnessing such things.

*Note 3: in Japanese, this word can also be written as 凄愴. In Chinese, this word can also be written as 凄愴 or 悽愴.

*Note 4: the first character is also the simplified Chinese version of 淒 and 悽 and is also a traditional variant of 淒. All three are often confused due to similar meanings and written form.

肆佰

November 1, 2014

Japanese Romaji: yonhyaku

Japanese Meaning: four hundred

Parts:

yon(yo, yotsu, shi) - four (in legal documents) / fourth / a shop / a store / selfish / self-indulgent

hyaku(byaku, pyaku, haku) - hundred (in legal documents) / numerous / many / east-west path between paddies / leader of 100 men

Chinese Pinyin: sìbǎi

Chinese Meaning: four hundred

Parts:

sì - indulge in / excess / unrestrained / wanton / unbridled / particle meaning now, therefore / (literary)

shop / marketplace / store / do one's best / devote efforts to / four (in legal documents)

bǎi - hundred (in legal documents)

*Note 1: since the kanji for numerals are very simple to write, alternate kanji are used in legal and financial documents to prevent forgeries. The formal Chinese numbers are called 大寫 (dàxiě) and in order from one to ten (traditional) are: 壹貳參肆伍陸柒捌玖拾 The formal forms of 100 and 1000 are 佰 and 仟 respectively. The formal Japanese numbers are called 大字 (daiji) and used to be identical to the Chinese numbers, but are now simplified to: 壱貳參四五六七八九拾百千

*Note 2: A variant of the first character is 肆. A variant of the second character is 陌 (this is treated as a separate character with a different meaning in Chinese).

*Note 3: if I don't count the 400 repeated kanji, I have drawn 2400 unique kanji today. (1400 words [kanji pairs] total; 2000 unique kanji on Facebook + 400 unique kanji on Tumblr).

棟梁

November 24, 2014

*Note 1: words on green paper have a new character on the left and the right character being used a second time.

Japanese Romaji: touryou

Japanese Meaning: chief support / pillar (e.g. of nation) / leader / boss / master (craftsman, carpenter, builder, etc.) / beams and ridge supports of a roof (original meaning)

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 首領 (shǒulǐng), 領袖 (lǐngxiù), or 領導者 (lǐngdǎozhě) for “leader”; 師傅 (shīfu) for “master”

Parts:

tou(mune, muna) - ridge (of a roof) / ridgepole / back of a sword / large building / building with a long roof / counter for buildings, apartments, etc.

ryou(hari, bari) - beam / girder / joist / weir / fish trap / Liang Dynasty (of China)

Chinese Pinyin: dòngliáng

Chinese Meaning: ridgepole / ridgepole and beams / person able to bear heavy responsibility / mainstay (of organization) / pillar (of state) / (figuratively) a man of great ability

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 大黒柱 for “mainstay”

Parts:

dòng - the main beams supporting a house / pillar / ridgepole / counter for houses or buildings, blocks

liáng - beam of roof / girder / rafters / bridge / name of Kingdoms and Dynasties at different periods

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 樑

筆筒

November 24, 2014

*Note 1: words on orange paper have a new character on the right and the left character being used a second time.

Japanese Romaji: fudedzutsu / hittou

Japanese Meaning: brush case

Japanese to Chinese Translation: see note 3

Parts:

fude(hitsu, pitsu) - writing brush / painting brush / handwriting / writing / a pen / a thing written by a certain person / calligraphy

dzutsu(tsutsu, tou) - cylinder / pipe / tube / sleeve / gun barrel / gun

Chinese Pinyin: bǐtǒng

Chinese Meaning: pen container / pen case / brush pot / brush case / a tubular pen rack or penholder

Chinese to Japanese Translation: see note 3

Parts:

bǐ - pen / pencil / writing brush / to write or compose / handwriting / writing / stroke / the strokes of Chinese characters / technique of writing, calligraphy, drawing or painting / counter for sums of money (debt, etc.) / counter for deals (business transactions, etc.)

tǒng - hollow tube / cylinder / tube-shaped object / pipe / barrel / can / tin / to encase in something cylindrical (such as hands in sleeves, etc.) / thick piece of bamboo / section of thick bamboo / (mah-jong) circle tiles

*Note 2: The first character usually describes any writing utensil in Chinese, but in Japanese usually specifies a writing brush.

*Note 3: in general, this word describes something that holds writing or drawing utensils. It literally means "a cylinder for 筆". More common words include: Japanese-筆立て (fudetate, pen or brush stand), 筆箱 (fudebako, pencil box), 筆入れ (fudeire, pencil case); Chinese-筆架 (bǐjià, pen rack), 筆盒 (bǐhé, pencil case), 鉛筆盒 (qiānbǐhé, pencil case), 筆袋 (bǐdài, pencil case [bag]). The difference in nuance is in the meaning of the additional kanji.

*Note 4: a variant of the second character is 簞

搾取

November 24, 2014

*Note 1: words on blue paper have a new character on the left and the right character being used a third (or more) time.

Japanese Romaji: sakushu

Japanese Meaning: exploitation / squeezing / sweating

Parts:

saku(shibo, shi) - squeeze

shu(to, do) - take / take up / fetch

Chinese Pinyin: zhàqǔ

Chinese Meaning: to extract / to squeeze out (juice, etc.) / to press for (juice or oil) / (figurative) to exploit / exploitation / to extort / to rob

Parts:

zhà - to press (for juice or oil) / to extract (juice) / to squeeze out / to wring / to crush with the hand / extort

qǔ - to take / to get / receive / obtain / to fetch / take hold of / to choose / select / summon / recall / marry / take a wife

*Note 2: this word means either (1) to literally extract or squeeze out something (such as milk, juice, or oil) or (2) to acquire or use all of someone else's resources (figuratively "squeezing" out their labor, money, etc.)

*Note 3: in Chinese, the first character is a less commonly used variant of 榨 (which is treated as a separate traditional Chinese character [a noun] as well as the simplified Chinese version of today's character [a verb].) As such, this word is more commonly written as 榨取 in Chinese.

宮廷

November 24, 2014

*Note: words on pink paper have a new character on the right and the left character being used a third (or more) time.

Japanese Romaji: kyuutei

Japanese Meaning: imperial court / royal court (residence of a sovereign, prince, nobleman, or other dignitary)

Parts:

kyuu(miya, kuu, guu) - palace / Shinto shrine / imperial residence / member of the imperial family / princess / constellations / zodiacal sign / tonic (of the Japanese & Chinese pentatonic scale) / ancient Chinese punishment (castration for men, or confinement for women)

tei - judicial or royal court / imperial court / government office / government bureau or department

Chinese Pinyin: gōngtíng

Chinese Meaning: court (of king or emperor) / royal court (residence of a sovereign, prince, nobleman, or other dignitary) / palace

Parts:

gōng - palace / temple / dwelling / an enclose / castration (as corporal punishment) / first note in pentatonic scale

tíng - court / palace courtyard / imperial court / monarchical government

騎虎

November 25, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kiko

Japanese Meaning: riding a tiger

Parts:

ki - equestrian / riding on horses / counter for horsemen

ko(tora, dora) - tiger (Panthera tigris) / (colloquialism) drunk person, drunkard

Chinese Pinyin: qíhǔ

Chinese Meaning: riding a tiger

Parts:

qí(jì) - to ride (an animal or bike) / ride horseback / equestrian / to sit astride / straddle / mount / cavalry / horseman / saddle horse / mounted soldier

hǔ - tiger / brave / fierce / savage / vigorous

*Note 1: this word appears in the following idioms: 騎虎の勢い (J: kiko no ikioi), 騎虎難下 (C: qíhǔnánxià), 勢成騎虎 (C: shìchéngqíhǔ). They all literally describe a situation where it is difficult to disembark from a tiger's back. They figuratively describe a situation where it is impossible to stop, quit, or back down halfway.

*Note 2: 2 more variants of the second character are 𤝵 and 𤝶

腐朽

November 26, 2014

Japanese Romaji: fukyu

Japanese Meaning: deterioration / rot

Parts:

fu(kusa, pu) - decay / rot / sour

kyuu(ku) - decay / rot / remain in seclusion

Chinese Pinyin: fǔxiǔ

Chinese Meaning: rotten / decayed / decadent / degenerate

Chinese to Japanese Translation: see note; 腐敗 (fuhai), 腐る (kusaru), 腐り果てる (kusarihateru),
or 朽ち果てる (kuchihateru)

Parts:

fǔ(fu) - decay / rotten / rot / spoil / become putrid / stale / worn-out / corrupt / bean curd / tofu /
soybean

xiǔ - rotten / decayed / rot / decay / worn / decrepit / senile / old and weak

*Note: the Japanese term is limited to materials or objects literally rotting away, decaying, corroding or crumbling down, whereas the Chinese term includes figurative meanings such as decline in lifestyle, writing style, health, or government.

昇降

November 27, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shoukou

Japanese Meaning: ascending and descending / going up and down / rise and fall / fluctuations

Parts:

shou(nobo) - rise up

kou(o, kuda, fu, bu, gou) - descend / fall / precipitate / surrender

Chinese Pinyin: shēngjiàng

Chinese Meaning: rising and lowering / to hoist and lower / to rise and fall / promotion and demotion

Parts:

shēng - to ascend / to rise in rank / rise / ascent / go up / hoist / peaceful / peace

jiàng(xiáng) - to drop / to fall / to come down / to descend / to lower / to reduce / to decline / down / to surrender / to capitulate / to concede / to subdue / to tame / vanquish

*Note 1: in Chinese, this word is alternatively written as 升降

*Note 2: the first character is a variant of 升 (a separate traditional character as well as the simplified Chinese form of today's character). Another variant is 陞. All three have the same simplified form.

*Note 3: a variant of the first character is 昇. Another variant of the second character is 降

顯現/顯

November 28, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kengen

Japanese Meaning: manifestation / coming into view / incarnation

Parts:

ken(arawa) - appear / existing / manifest / display / clear / evident / exposed / scanty / bare /

unconcealed / naked / public / open / (archaism) exposure, clarity / (abbreviation) exoteric Buddhism

gen(arawa, utsutsu, utsu) - appear / manifest / become visible / emerge / reveal / actual / existing / now / current / the present / reality / consciousness

Chinese Pinyin: xiǎnxiàn

Chinese Meaning: appearance / to appear / to show / to reveal oneself / manifest oneself

Parts:

xiǎn - manifest / to display / to show / reveal / apparent / obvious / visible / noticeable / evident / clear / prominent / conspicuous / (prefix) phanero- / illustrious / influential / respectful form of address for one's forebears

xiàn - appear / manifest / become visible / emerge / reveal / existing / now / current / the present / modern / in time of need / extempore / cash / ready / available / actual

*Note: another variant of the first character is 顯. The second character is a variant of 見 (which is also a completely separate character).

酒壺/壺

November 29, 2014

Japanese Romaji: sakatsubo / shuko

Japanese Meaning: sake jar / jar containing alcohol

Parts:

saka(sake, zake, shu, ki) - alcoholic beverage / sake (Japanese rice wine) / alcohol

tsubo(ko) - jar / pot / vase / vessel / dice cup / depression (i.e. the basin of a waterfall) / (figurative)

bull's-eye / key point (of a conversation, etc.) / the core or heart of an issue/ acupuncture point /

moxibustion point / nodes on a fingerboard (of a shamisen, etc.) / hinge knuckle / one's aim / (archaism)

target (when aiming an arrow) / hu (ancient Chinese vessel shaped like a vase, usually used to store alcohol)

Chinese Pinyin: jiǔhú

Chinese Meaning: wine pot or jar / wine cup / flagon

Parts:

jiǔ - alcoholic beverage / alcoholic drinks (brewed or distilled) / wine (especially rice wine) / liquor / spirits

hú - jar / pot / jug / vase / wine vessel / kettle / any potbellied container with a small opening / counter for bottled liquid

毀壞/壞

November 29, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kikai

Japanese Meaning: breaking / demolishing / smashing / destroying / wrecking / being broken / being ruined / being destroyed / being worn out

Parts:

ki(kobo, kowa) - be broken / be chipped / be scratched / be ruined / break / destroy / censure

kai(kowa, e) - break / demolition / destroy

Chinese Pinyin: huǐhuài

Chinese Meaning: to damage / to devastate / to destroy / to vandalize / to injure / to ruin / damage / destruction / devastation

Parts:

huǐ - to destroy / to damage / to ruin / exterminate / injure / to defame / to slander

huài - bad / rotten / spoiled (food) / spoil / ruin / destroy / broken / to break down

*Note: 2 variants of the first character are 毀 and 燬 (which are also separate traditional Chinese characters).

控訴

November 30, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kouso

Japanese Meaning: kōso appeal (initial appeal to a higher court) / appeal (in a judicial case)

Japanese to Chinese Translation: see note; 上訴 (shàngsù) for “appeal (in court)”

Parts:

kou(hika, bika) - draw in / hold back / refrain from / withdraw / be moderate

so(utta) - accusation / appeal to / to sue / complain of pain

Chinese Pinyin: kòngsù

Chinese Meaning: to appeal to a higher court / to appeal (general plea) / to accuse before an authority / to accuse / to denounce / to make a complaint against / denunciation / condemn

Chinese to Japanese Translation: see note; 上訴 (jouso) for “appeal (in court)”; アピール (apiiru) for “appeal (general plea); 告発 (kokuhatu), 糾弾 (kyuudan), 非難 (hinan), 告訴 (kokuso), etc. for “accusation”, “complaint”, “blame”, “denouncement”, “condemnation”, etc.; 訴える (uttaeru) for “to bring to someone’s attention”, “to appeal”, “to complain”, or “to sue”

Parts:

kòng - to control / dominate / command / to accuse / to charge / to sue / draw a bow / to invert a container to empty it / (suffix) (slang) buff / enthusiast / devotee / -phile or -philia

sù - to complain / to sue / to charge / accuse / indict / to tell / inform / narrate / relate / pour out

*Note: in general, this word can be used in both Chinese and Japanese to refer to any court appeal. In Japanese law, this word can refer to one of three specific types of court appeals (kouso, koukoku [抗告], joukoku [上告]). The Chinese word has several other meanings as mentioned above.

禁錮

December 1, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kinko

Japanese Meaning: imprisonment / confinement

Parts:

kin - ban / forbid / prohibition

ko - to tie

Chinese Pinyin: jìngù

Chinese Meaning: to confine / to imprison / confinement / imprisonment / to keep in custody / prohibition / shackles / fetters / (archaism) to ban a person from government service / to prevent entry into government services

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 政治活動に参加させない (seijikatsudou ni sankasasenai) for “not letting someone participate in government”

Parts:

jìn(jīn) - to prohibit / to forbid / restrict / taboo / imprison / confine / detain / royal residence / forbidden area / to endure / to bear / to stand / restrain oneself / contain oneself

gù - to restrain / confine / imprison / hold in custody / to stop / run metal into cracks / fill up cracks with molten metal / obstinate disease

*Note: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as 禁固

頻度

December 2, 2014

Japanese Romaji: hindo

Japanese Meaning: frequency (of occurrence)

Parts:

hin(shiki) - recur / repeatedly

do(tabi, taku, to) - degree (angle, temperature, scale, etc.) / occurrence / times / strength (of alcohol) / counter for occurrences and times

Chinese Pinyin: píndù

Chinese Meaning: frequency (of occurrence) / frequentness

Parts:

pín - frequency / frequently / incessantly / repeatedly / repetitious / again and again / (electronic) frequency

dù(duó) - degree (angle, intensity, temperature, etc.) / occurrence / times / limit / extent / system / manner / bearing / to estimate / measure / limit / to pass / to spend time / consider / kilowatt-hour / counter for occurrences and events

真諦

December 3, 2014

Japanese Romaji:shintai / shintei

Japanese Meaning: ultimate truth / essence (in Buddhism)

Parts:

shin(ma, makoto) - true / truth / reality / genuineness / genuine / real / seriousness / just / right / due (east) / pure / accurate / printed style writing / (abbreviation) star performer / Buddhist sect

tai(akira, tei) - abandon / give up

Chinese Pinyin: zhēndì

Chinese Meaning: the real meaning / true meaning / the true essence / truth

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 真理 (shinri) for non-religious contexts

Parts:

zhēn - really / truly / factual / indeed / real / true / genuine / actual / substantial / the highest sincerity
one is capable of

dì - to examine / careful / attentive / truth (Buddhism) / true meaning / (Cantonese) tease, ridicule

*Note: a variant of the first character is 眞

生殖

December 4, 2014

Japanese Romaji: seishoku

Japanese Meaning: (biology) reproduction / procreation / generation

Parts:

sei(i, u, uma, o, ki, na, nama, ha, mu, shou, jou, fu) - life / living / birth / genuine / pure / undiluted / raw / uncooked / rare / fresh / natural / unedited / unprocessed / crude / live (not recorded) / inexperienced / unpolished / green / student / unpasteurized (beer) / draft (beer) / draught beer / partially / somewhat / half- / semi- / impudence / sauciness / (colloquialism) unprotected (i.e. not wearing a condom) / area of thick growth (trees, etc.) / (male term) (humble) I, me, myself
shoku(fu) - increase / multiply / raise / augment

*Note: the first character has the most readings out of any other character in Japanese.

Chinese Pinyin: shēngzhí

Chinese Meaning: (biology) reproduction / to reproduce / to flourish

Parts:

shēng - live / life / living / lifetime / livelihood / alive / lively / to be born / come into being / come into existence / birth / to grow / breed / bear (something) / give birth / produce / beget / create / give rise to / cause / raw / uncooked / unripe / crude / unskilled / stiff / unfamiliar / strange / unknown / unacquainted / save / untamed / barbarian / uncultured / pupil / student / scholar / practitioner / gentleman / creatures / male role in traditional Chinese opera / Mr. / mister
zhí(shì) - to grow / to reproduce / breed / multiply / spawn / increase / colonize / colonization / prosper / skeleton

悠然

December 5, 2014

Japanese Romaji: yuuzen

Japanese Meaning: at ease / leisurely / composedly / calmly / with an air of composure

Parts:

yuu - distant / long time / permanence / leisure

zen(sa, shika, nen) - if so / in that case / so / well / sort of thing / -like / yeah / uh-huh

Chinese Pinyin: yōurán

Chinese Meaning: unhurried / unhurriedly / in a leisurely manner / naturally / carefree

Parts:

yōu - long or drawn out / remote in time or space / long / far / distant / leisurely / carefree / unhurried /
to swing / sway / float about / pensive / worried

rán - correct / right / yes / (most) certainly / so / thus / like this / -ly / pledge / promise / permission /
however / but / still / nevertheless / on the other hand / really / if so

*Note: a variant of the second character is 𢛂

薰陶/薰

December 6, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kuntou

Japanese Meaning: discipline / training / education

Parts:

kun(kao, ta, taki) - fragrant / be scented / send forth fragrance / pleasant smell / aroma / fragrance / scent / pleasant-smelling vegetation / smoke (tobacco)

tou(sue) - porcelain / pottery

Chinese Pinyin: xūntáo

Chinese Meaning: to mold a person's character, etc. through the influence of education, proper discipline, good examples, etc. / to edify / to influence (positively) / to nurture / training / cultivate / to seep in

Parts:

xūn - sweet-smelling grass / Coumarouna odorata / a medicinal herb / a kind of fragrant herb / holy basil / tonka beans / coumarin / fragrance / aroma / warm / mild (breeze) / to educate / influence / affect / nurture / to smoke / to fumigate / treat meat, fish, etc. with smoke / to cauterize

táo - pottery / earthenware / make pottery / ceramics / cultivate / mould / educate / pleased / contented / happy / joyful

*Note 1: 熏 is (1) the simplified Chinese version of two characters (熏, 薰=薰 [not applicable to the "fragrant herb" meaning]), (2) a variant that is sometimes interchangeable with the other two versions, (3) a separate traditional Chinese character, (4) has one other traditional Chinese variant 𤇗 (xūn). For this project, I am counting these versions as four characters.

*Note 2: another variant of the first character is 勸

哀悼

December 6, 2014

Japanese Romaji: aitou

Japanese Meaning: condolence / regret / tribute / sorrow / sympathy / lament / mourn / grieve over

Parts:

ai(awa, kana) - grief / sorrow / sympathize / pity / pathos / pathetic

tou(ita) - grieve over / lament

Chinese Pinyin: āidào

Chinese Meaning: to grieve over somebody's death / to lament somebody's death / mourning /
condolence

Parts:

āi - sorrow / grief / sad / sadness / mournful / grieved / sorrowful / pity / pitiful / sympathize / to grieve
for / to pity / to lament / to mourn / to condole / have compassion for

dào - to mourn / to lament / grieve / grieved

*Note: do not confuse the first character with 衷衰袁袞

主宰

December 7, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shusai

Japanese Meaning: supervision / chairmanship / presiding over / host / superintendent / president / a ruler

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 主持 (zhǔchí), 領導 (lǐngdǎo)

Parts:

shu(aruji, omo, nushi, shuu, su, zu) - main thing / principal / foremost / chief / important / (one's) master / mistress / lord / Lord (Christian reference to Jesus or God) / the majority / the primary concern / head (of a household, etc.) / leader / owner / proprietor / proprietress / landlord / landlady / subject (of a rumor, etc.) / doer (of a deed) / guardian spirit / long-time resident (or employee, etc.) / husband / you (informal) / (archaism) honorific (or familiar) suffix used after a name / (abbreviation) main secondary or supporting role (in kyogen) / (archaism) entertaining someone as one's guest
sai(zai) - manager / to rule / superintend

Chinese Pinyin: zhǔzǎi

Chinese Meaning: to dominate / to rule / to dictate / to master / the man in charge / a man with supreme powers / a god

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 支配 (shihai), 左右 (sayuu), or 掌握 (shouaku)

Parts:

zhǔ - owner / master / host / chief / leader / lord / god / emperor / individual or party concerned / officiate at / preside over / take charge of / to be in charge of / to direct / to head / control / determine / main / main aim / goal / primary / principal / to indicate / to signify / trump card (in card games) / God / the Lord / Jesus Christ
zǎi - to slaughter livestock / to butcher / to fleece / to govern / to rule / preside / to cheat customers / Imperial official in dynastic China / prefect / minister (in feudal China)

卓越

December 8, 2014

Japanese Romaji: takuetsu

Japanese Meaning: excellence / superiority / prominence / outstanding / distinguished / eminence / pre-eminence / distinction / primacy / surpassing / superb / paramount

Parts:

taku(cha) - desk / table / eminent / high

etsu(ko, go, otsu) - cross over / move to / exceed / surpass / Vietnam (abbreviation)

Chinese Pinyin: zhuóyuè

Chinese Meaning: outstanding / surpassing / distinguished / splendid / excellent / excellence / remarkable / foremost / brilliant / distinction

Parts:

zhuó - outstanding / prominent / remarkable / profound / brilliant / lofty / tall and erect or upright

yuè - to climb over / jump across / pass through / to exceed / overstep / to surpass / go beyond /

transgress / skip / cross over / go across / the more ... the more / even more / plunder / pillage /

Vietnam (abbreviation) / generic word for peoples or states of south China or south Asia at different historical periods / state of Yue in the Zhou dynasty / east Zhejiang province

*Note 1: this word describes something or someone which excels above all others in a certain aspect.

*Note 2: the first character also has the variant of 桌 (which is also a separate character used in Chinese [zhuō] meaning "table").

九坪

December 9, 2014

Japanese Romaji: kyuutsubo

Japanese Meaning: nine tsubo, píng, or pyeong (these are traditional Asian units of land area; see definitions below)

Parts:

kyuu(kokono, ku) - nine / an indeterminate large number / a myriad / a great many

tsubo - two-mat area / tsubo, píng, or pyeong (traditional Asian unit of land area. Japanese tsubo, Taiwanese píng, and Korean pyeong = 3.305785124 square meters [36 square shaku])

*Note: in Japanese, 九十九 (ninety-nine) is also read as “tsukumo”

Chinese Pinyin: jiǔpíng

Chinese Meaning: nine tsubo, píng, or pyeong (these are traditional Asian units of land area; see definitions below)

Parts:

jiǔ - nine

píng - a level piece of ground / a plain / level ground / patio / terrace / paved area / tsubo, píng, or pyeong (traditional Asian unit of land area. Japanese tsubo, Taiwanese píng, and Korean pyeong = 3.305785124 square meters [36 square shaku])

十寸

December 10, 2014

Japanese Romaji: juusun

Japanese Meaning: ten sun, cùn, or tsun (these are traditional Asian units of length; see definitions below)

Parts:

juu(to, too, so, jitsu, jutsu) - ten

sun(zun, zuta, zuda) - one tenth of a Japanese foot (shaku) / sun, cùn, or tsun (traditional Asian unit of length. Some current measures include: Japanese sun and Taiwanese cùn = 3.0303 cm; Chinese cùn = 3.333 cm; Hong Kongese tsun = 3.71475 cm) / a little bit (of time, distance, etc.)

*Note: in Japanese, 二十歳 (20 years old) is read as “hatachi”, 二十日 (20th day of the month) is read as “hatsuka”, 十六夜 (16th night of the month) is read as “izayoi”, and 九十九 (ninety-nine) is also read as “tsukumo”. 一寸 (just a minute!) is read as “chotto”, 燐寸 (a rare form for matches for fires) is read as “matchi”.

Chinese Pinyin: shícùn

Chinese Meaning: ten sun, cùn, or tsun (these are traditional Asian units of length; see definitions below)

Parts:

shí - ten / tenth / complete / completely / perfect / perfectly / extremely

cùn - one tenth of a Chinese foot (chǐ) / sun, cùn, or tsun (traditional Asian unit of length. Some current measures include: Japanese sun and Taiwanese cùn = 3.0303 cm; Chinese cùn = 3.333 cm; Hong Kongese tsun = 3.71475 cm) / (slang, North American Cantonese) an inch in Imperial units or US units / as small as an “inch” / thumb / small / tiny / little / short / (Cantonese) (slang) arrogant, cocky

抄録/録

December 11, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shouroku

Japanese Meaning: an extract / quotation / excerpt / selection / abstract / summary

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 節録 (jiélù), 摘録 (zhāilù), 摘要 (zhāiyào), 提要 (tíyào)

Parts:

shou(su, suku) - an extract / a copy / a selection / excerpt / summary / annotation / spread thin / shou
(unit of volume, approximately 1.8 ml)

roku(to) - record / transcript

Chinese Pinyin: chāolù

Chinese Meaning: to make a copy of / to copy by hand

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 書き写す (kakiutsusu), 書き取る (kakitoru)

Parts:

chāo - to make a copy / transcribe / to duplicate / to plagiarize / to pirate / to crib / to search and seize /
to raid / ransack / to grab / confiscate / seize / to go off with / to take a shortcut / cut corners / to make
a turning move / to fold one's arms / (Cantonese) rummage, search slovenly

lù - diary / record / to hit / to copy / write down

*Note: a variant of the first character is 鈔

鎮圧/壓

December 12, 2014

Japanese Romaji: chin'atsu

Japanese Meaning: suppression / repression / subjugation / to put down / to quell / tamping (soil) / soil packing

Parts:

chin(shizu) - tranquilize / ancient peace-preservation centers / (Buddhism) (archaism) a weight / temple supervisor / town (of China)

atsu(o, he) - dominate / oppress / overwhelm / pressure / push / force

Chinese Pinyin: zhènyā

Chinese Meaning: suppression / repression / to suppress / to put down / to quell / execute / death penalty / tamping (soil) / soil packing

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 処刑 (shokei) for "execution"; 死刑 (shikei) for "death penalty"

Parts:

zhèn - to press down / to calm / to subdue / tranquil / sedate / to suppress / repress / to guard / garrison / garrison post / small town / township / trading centre / marketplace / to cool or chill (food or drinks) / cool with cold water or ice

yā(yà) - to press / to push down / to keep under (control) / oppress / to weigh down / pressure / force / suppress / quell / subdue / control / restrain / calm down / prevail over / outdo / surpass / approach / close in on / draw near / in the first place / to crush / lay aside / pigeonhole / shelve

*Note: a variant of the first character is 鎮

弛緩

December 13, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shikan / chikan

Japanese Meaning: relaxation (e.g. of muscles) / becoming flaccid / slackness / (moral) laxness

Parts:

shi(tayu, taru, daru, yuru, chi) - relax / slacken

kan(yuru, nuru) - ease / relax / slacken / loosen / lessen / be moderate

Chinese Pinyin: chíhuǎn

Chinese Meaning: to relax / to slacken / relaxation (in nuclear magnetic resonance) / flaccid

Parts:

chí - to unstring a bow / to slacken / to relax / to loosen up / abolish / remove

huǎn - slow / unhurried / leisurely / sluggish / gradual / tardy / not tense / relaxed / to postpone / to defer / to delay / to stall / to put off / slacken / to stave off / to revive / to recuperate / come to / refresh

伺候

December 14, 2014

Japanese Romaji: shikou

Japanese Meaning: waiting upon (someone)

Parts:

shi(ukaga) - ask / inquire / to question / implore / pay respects / visit

kou(sourou) - climate / season / weather / (archaism) (polite) to be (auxiliary used in place of "aru" after "de" or "ni" when forming a copula), to do (auxiliary used in place of "-masu" after a -masu stem) /

(archaism) to serve (by a superior's side)

Chinese Pinyin: cìhòu

Chinese Meaning: to serve / to wait, or attend upon / to wait for / to await

Parts:

cì(sì) - to wait upon / to serve / attend upon somebody / to watch / to wait for (chance) / to examine / to spy on / keep watch

hòu - to wait / expect / to inquire after / visit / greet / to watch / season / climate / time / period / situation / condition / pay (bills) / take care of the bill / (archaism) period of five days

城郭

December 15, 2014

Japanese Romaji: joukaku

Japanese Meaning: fortress / castle / citadel / enclosure / castle walls

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 城堡 (chéngbǎo) for “castle” or “fortress”; 城堡牆壁 (chéngbǎo qiángbì) for “castle wall”

Parts:

jou(shiro, jiro, sei, ki) - castle / fortress

kaku(kuruwa) - enclosure / fortification / area enclosed by earthwork / district / quarters / red-light district

Chinese Pinyin: chéngguō

Chinese Meaning: (archaic) a city wall / the inner and outer city walls

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 市壁 (shiheki) for “city wall”; 城郭都市 (joukakutoshi) for “walled city”

Parts:

chéng - city / town / municipality / city walls / fortified settlement / defensive wall / fortification / (archaic) castle / fort / large commercial centre

guō - outer city wall / outer part (of a city) / frame / rim

*Note: the first character usually refers to a castle in Japanese while it refers to a city in Chinese. Thus, this word can refer to the wall surrounding it or the castle/city itself.

措辞/辭

December 16, 2014

Japanese Romaji: soji

Japanese Meaning: wording / phraseology / diction

Parts:

so(o) - except / give up / discontinue / lay aside / set aside / suspend

ji(ina, ya) - expression / term / words / speech / address (e.g. opening or closing remarks) / phrase / to resign / quit / ci (Chinese literary form) / ancillary word

Chinese Pinyin: cuòcí

Chinese Meaning: wording (of a letter, diplomatic note, etc.) / way of expressing something / turn of phrase / phrasing / diction

Parts:

cuò - to handle / to manage / to put in order / to arrange / collect / to place / employ / to administer / to execute / to take action on / to plan / make plans / make preparation

cí - expression / term / words / speech / phrase / diction / phraseology / resign / quit / to hand in / take leave / part from / bid adieu / depart / to go away from / dismiss / discharge / to fire / decline / shirk / evade / ballad (archaic poetic genre) / a type of classical Chinese literature or poetry

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: 2 more variants of the second character are 辭 and 辭. The second character is also a Chinese variant of 詞

後嗣

December 17, 2014

Japanese Romaji: koushi

Japanese Meaning: heir / descendant / successor

Parts:

kou(ato, ushi, ushiro, oku, shiri, nochi, go) - the back / behind / rear / later / after / afterwards / soon / since / remainder / the rest / descendant / descendent / successor / heir / after one's death / more (i.e. five more minutes) / (archaism) past, previous / future / buttocks / rump / bottom / undersurface / last place / end / consequence

shi(tsu, tsugi) - heir / succeed

Chinese Pinyin: hòusì

Chinese Meaning: heir / descendant / successor / posterity

Parts:

hòu - at the back of / behind / rear / afterwards / come after / later / descendant / descendent / posterity / an auxiliary verb to indicate 'then' or 'afterwards'

sì - succession (to a title) / to inherit / to connect / continuing (a tradition) / to succeed (someone) / posterity / descendants / heirs / offspring / later / afterwards / subsequently

*Note: the simplified Chinese version of the first character (后) is also a separate traditional character.

溯源/溯

December 18, 2014

Japanese Romaji: sôgen / sakugen

Japanese Meaning: returning to the origin / going back to the beginning / retracing

Parts:

sô(saku, sakanobo) - go upstream / retrace the past

gen(minamoto) - origin / source

Chinese Pinyin: sùyuán

Chinese Meaning: to investigate the origin of something / to trace a river upstream back to its source / to trace back to the source

Parts:

sù - to go upstream / to go against a stream / go against current / to trace back to a source / to recall / formerly

yuán - root / source / origin / spring (small stream) / head / fountainhead

*Note 1: all three versions of the first character can be used in Japanese or Chinese. The “し” versions are more common in Japanese while the “溯” version is more common in Chinese.

*Note 2: in Chinese, this word is alternatively written as 溯源

*Note 3: another variant of the first character is 溯. A variant of the second character is 源

*Note 4: this is kanji number 2430 and will be the last kanji of 2014. Here is the first word I researched for this project: <http://tinyurl.com/oyr6lad>

初詣

January 1, 2015

Japanese Romaji: hatsumoude

Japanese Meaning: hatsumōde (Japanese custom; first shrine visit of the New Year)

Parts:

hatsu(ui, ubu, so, zo, haji, sho) - beginning / first time / first / start / new / innocent / naïve / unsophisticated / inexperienced / green / wet behind the ears / birth-moude(mai, mou, kei) - visit a temple

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is also written as 初詣で

*Note 2: 初心 (innocent) has the uncommon alternative reading of “ubu”

Chinese Pinyin: chūyì

Chinese Meaning: hatsumōde (Japanese custom; first shrine visit of the New Year)

Parts:

chū - (at the) beginning / at first / first / initial / primary / early / original / junior / basic
yì - to go (to visit a superior) / arrive at / call on / visit somebody / reach / one's current attainment in learning or art / achievement / accomplishment / attainments

*Note 3: the Japanese New Year's greetings in the picture include:

あけましておめでとうございます (akemashite omedetou gozaimasu)

今年もよろしくお願ひします (kotoshi mo yoroshiku onegaishimasu)

迎春 (geishun)

賀正 (gashou)

謹賀新年 (kinga shin'nen)

旭日

January 2, 2015

Japanese Romaji: kyokujitsu

Japanese Meaning: the rising sun

Parts:

kyoku(asahi) - rising sun / morning sun

jitsu(ka, hi, bi, nichi, ni) - sun / sunshine / sunlight / day / days / daytime / case (especially unfortunate) / event / day of month / Sunday / Japan / Japanese / counter for days

*Note 1: the second character also has other special readings in common Japanese phrases: 今日 (kyou - today) / 明日 (ashita/asu - tomorrow) / 昨日 (kinou - yesterday) / 一昨日 (ototoi/issakujitsu - the day before yesterday) / 一昨々日 (sakiototoi/issakusakujitsu - three days back)

Chinese Pinyin: xùrì

Chinese Meaning: the rising sun / sunrise

Parts:

xù - rising sun / dawn / brilliance / radiant / brilliant

rì - sun / day / date / day of the month / daytime / daily / everyday / time / Japan / Japanese / counter for days

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 昃

炒飯

January 3, 2015

Japanese Romaji: chaahan

Japanese Meaning: Chinese-style fried rice

Parts:

chaa(ita, i) - to fry / to broil / to parch / to roast

han(meshi, manma) - cooked rice / boiled rice / meal / food / one's livelihood

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as チャーハン

Chinese Pinyin: chǎofàn

Chinese Meaning: fried rice / to stir-fry rice

Chinese to Japanese Translation: ご飯を炒める (gohan o itameru) for the verb “to fry rice”

Parts:

chǎo - to sauté / to stir-fry / to fry / to roast while stirring / to boil / to cook / to speculate / to scalp / to hype / boost / publicize / repeatedly expose / to fire (somebody) / dismiss (from a job) / to sack

fàn - cooked rice / cooked grain for food / meal / food / cuisine / feed / means for living / profession

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 飴

山麓

January 4, 2015

Japanese Romaji: sanroku

Japanese Meaning: foot or base of a mountain / foothills

Parts:

san(zan, sen, yama) - mountain / hill / mine (e.g. coal mine) / heap / pile / crown (of a hat) / thread (of a screw) / tread (of a tire) / climax / peak / critical point / guess / speculation / criminal case / crime / festival float (especially one mounted with a decorative halberd) / (prefix) wild / Mt. (suffix used with the names of mountains) / Mount

roku(fumoto) - foot of a mountain or hill / the bottom / the base (of a mountain)

Chinese Pinyin: shānlù

Chinese Meaning: foot or base of a mountain / foothills

Parts:

shān - mountain / hill / peak / anything that resembles a mountain / bundled straw in which silkworms spin cocoons / gable

lù - foot of a hill / foothill

歪曲

January 5, 2015

Japanese Romaji: waikyoku

Japanese Meaning: distortion / falsification / perversion / making a false representation of

Parts:

wai(iga, ibitsu, hizu, yuga) - bend / distort / distorted / warp / warped / crooked / irregular / strained / oval / elliptical

kyoku(kuse, kuma, ma, maga) - tune / piece of music / melody / composition / corner / nook / a recess / bend / crooked / curve / lean / fault / injustice / wrong / improper / indecent / a shadow / a shade / perverse / pleasure / long segment of a noh play forming its musical highlight

Chinese Pinyin: wāiqū

Chinese Meaning: to distort / to misrepresent / to twist or confuse (things, facts, etc.) intentionally

Parts:

wāi - askew / skewed / at a crooked angle / slant / slanting / inclined / tilted / awry / improper / devious / noxious / underhanded / recline / lie in a reclining position

qū(qǔ) - piece of music / sheet music / tune / song / bent / crooked / twisted / winding / wrong / false / unjustifiable / little known / obscure / a type of verse for singing, which emerged in the Southern Song and Jin dynasties and became popular in the Yuan dynasty

*Note: 2 variants of the second character are 曲 and 曲

諜報

January 6, 2015

Japanese Romaji: chouhou

Japanese Meaning: secret information / intelligence (secrets)

Parts:

chou - reconnoiter / spy out

hou(muku) - news / report / information / tell / announce / retribution / reward

Chinese Pinyin: diébao

Chinese Meaning: spy report / intelligence (secrets) / information obtained through espionage

Parts:

dié - to spy / spying / a spy / intelligence agent / espionage / an intelligence report

bao - news / to report / a report / newspaper / periodical / journal / tell / inform / announce /

recompense / repay / revenge / to avenge / reward / retribution

帆船

January 7, 2015

Japanese Romaji: hansen / hobune

Japanese Meaning: sailing ship / sailing boat / sailing vessel / sailboat

Parts:

han(ho, pan) - sail (of a boat)

sen(funa, fune, bune) - boat / ship / vessel / watercraft / steamship / tank / tub / vat / trough / counter
for boat-shaped containers

Chinese Pinyin: fānchuán / fánchuán

Chinese Meaning: sailboat / sailing-boat / yacht / a junk

Parts:

fān(fán) - sail (of a boat) / sailboat / canvas / sailcloth

chuán - boat / ship / vessel / craft

*Note: two variants of the first character are 帆 and 颿. A variant of the second character is 船公

積弊

January 8, 2015

Japanese Romaji: sekihei

Japanese Meaning: deep-rooted evil

Parts:

seki(tsu, dzu) - amass / contents / volume (space) / area / acreage / load / pile up / stack / product (math)

hei(tsui) - abuse / breakage / evil / vice / bad habit / harm

Chinese Pinyin: jībì

Chinese Meaning: deep-rooted evils or corrupt ways / age-old (malpractice) / long established (corrupt practices) / deeply rooted (superstition) / a long existing abuse

Parts:

jī - to amass / to accumulate / to store up / measured quantity (area, volume, etc.) / product (math) / integrate (math) / to solve an ordinary differential equation (math) / old / long-standing / long (time) / deep-rooted / (cards) Jack

bì - evil / wrong / bad / criminal / detriment / fraud / harm / abuse / malpractice / defeat / disadvantage / defect / drawback / (Cantonese) variant of 弊

旺盛

January 9, 2015

Japanese Romaji: ousei

Japanese Meaning: full of vim and vigor / energetic / in high spirits

Parts:

ou - beautiful / flourishing / successful / vigorous

sei(saka, mo, jou) - prosper / boom / copulate

Chinese Pinyin: wàngshèng

Chinese Meaning: vigorous / exuberant / prosperous / prolific / productive / high (morale) / busy

Parts:

wàng - prosperous / prosper / flourishing / vigorous / thriving condition / popular / (of flowers) blooming / (of fire) roaring / full of vigor / energetic / be alive and kicking / excellent / increase / brilliant / bright / brisk (said of light, fires, etc.)

shèng(chéng) - flourishing / abundant / growing / prosperous / exuberant / vigorous / energetic / aggressive / magnificent / grand / popular / common / widespread / deep / profound / lavish / extensively / to hold / to contain / to fill / filling / put in a container / wax / waxing / to ladle / to pick up with a utensil / accommodate / have a capacity of

*Note: a variant of the first character is 旺

対峙/對

January 10, 2015

Japanese Romaji: taiji

Japanese Meaning: confronting / to face / holding your own with / squaring off against / stand face to face with / take a stand (against)

Parts:

tai(ai, muka, tsui) - opposite / opposition / versus / vs. / vis-à-vis / to (i.e. "we won the game five to three") / equal footing / equal terms / even / against / anti (prefix) / toward / compare / pair / couple / set / antithesis / counter for items that come in pairs / counter for sets (of clothes, utensils, furniture, etc.)

ji(sobada) - soar / to tower

Chinese Pinyin: duìzhì

Chinese Meaning: to stand opposite / to confront / confrontation / to face each other / be locked in a confrontation or face-off, with neither side attacking or retreating / stand facing each other, e.g. two mountains facing each other across a river

Parts:

duì - to oppose / to be opposite / opposed / parallel / to face / facing / towards / at / to direct (towards something) / for / to / as to / versus / vs. / couple (two things) / pair / to match together / correct (answer) / right / proper / to answer / to reply / to treat (somebody a certain way) / with regard to / to adjust / to fit / to suit / to check / ascertain / counter for pairs, a couple of things

zhì - stand erect / stand up / pile up / peak / to store

糾合

January 11, 2015

Japanese Romaji: kyuugou

Japanese Meaning: to rally / to muster / call together / gather together

Parts:

kyuu(azana, tada) - ask / investigate / verify / to twist (something)

gou(a, ai, katsu, gatsu) - join / suit / fit / 0.1 / 0.18039 litres (liters) / 0.3306 metres square (meters) / one-tenth of the way from the base to the summit of a mountain / (astronomical) conjunction / counter for covered containers / counter for matches, battles, etc.

Chinese Pinyin: jiūhé

Chinese Meaning: to band together / gathering / a get-together / to gather together / to assemble

Parts:

jiū - to gather together / band together / assemble / to investigate / inspect / to entangle / snarl / bog down / to correct / rectify / redress / supervise / superintend / picket

hé(gě) - to join / combine / unite / gather / bring together / collect / to fit / to suit / to agree / conform with / to close / to shut / to be equal to / add up to / whole / entire / all / together / jointly / proper / appropriate / round (in a battle) / 0.1 / conjunction (astronomy) / first note of pentatonic scale / 100 ml / one-tenth of a peck / measure for dry grain equal to one-tenth of sheng (升) or liter, or one-hundredth dou (斗) / measure for grain, equal to 1 decilitre

*Note 1: in general, this word means to gather a group of people for some purpose or common goal.

*Note 2: this word can also be written as 鳩合 in Japanese and Chinese.

*Note 3: two variants of the first character are 糾 and 糾. The second character is a variant of 合 and the simplified Chinese form of 合. A variant of the second character is 合.

蛋白

January 12, 2015

Japanese Romaji: tanpaku

Japanese Meaning: egg white / albumen / albumin / (Abbreviation) protein

Parts:

tan - egg / barbarian

paku(shiro, shira, haku, byaku) - white / a white Go stone / innocence / (manga slang) good guy, 'white hat'

Chinese Pinyin: dàn bái

Chinese Meaning: egg white / albumen / albumin / (Abbreviation) protein

Parts:

dàn - egg / oval-shaped / term of abuse / fellow

bái - white / clear / to make clear / pure / snowy / unblemished / bright / clean / plain / empty / blank / in vain / for nothing / gratuitous / free of charge / gratis / reactionary / anti-communist / funeral / to stare coldly / to write wrong character / to state / to explain / vernacular / spoken lines in opera

謄写/寫

January 13, 2015

Japanese Romaji: tousha

Japanese Meaning: copy / transcription / mimeograph / photocopy

Parts:

tou - copy / mimeograph

sha(utsu, ja) - to copy / replicate / reproduce / transcribe / to photograph / be photographed / describe

Chinese Pinyin: téngxiě

Chinese Meaning: to transcribe / to make a fair copy

Parts:

téng - make a (clean) copy / to copy / transcribe

xiě - to write (with brush, pen, etc.) / draw / sketch / paint / compose (a literary or musical work) / represent / describe / depict (with words)

*Note 1: the simplified Chinese version of the second character is similar to the Japanese version, except the bottom horizontal stroke does not touch another stroke.

*Note 2: another variant of the second character is 寫

苛性

January 14, 2015

Japanese Romaji: kasei

Japanese Meaning: caustic (chemistry)

Parts:

ka(iji, ira, saina) - chastise / scold / torment

sei(saga, shou) - nature (of a person or thing) / character / characteristic / gender / sex / (suffix) -ty / -ity / -ness / -cy / content / one's destiny / custom / tradition / habit / (Buddhism) that which does not change according to external influences

Chinese Pinyin: kēxìng

Chinese Meaning: caustic (chemistry)

Parts:

kē - severe / harsh / rigorous / demanding / excessive / exacting / small / petty

xìng - nature / character / disposition / temper / quality or property / natural property / attribute / gender / sex / sexuality / essence / suffix forming adjective from verb / suffix forming noun from adjective, corresponding to -ness or -ity

斬首

January 15, 2015

Japanese Romaji: zanshu

Japanese Meaning: decapitated head / decapitation / beheading

Parts:

zan(ki, gi) - beheading / decapitation / kill / murder

shu(kubi, koube, shirushi) - neck / head / unemployed person / one's life / tell / beginning / first /
counter for songs and poems / decapitated head of an enemy

Chinese Pinyin: zhǎnshǒu

Chinese Meaning: to behead / to guillotine / decapitate

Parts:

zhǎn - to behead (as form of capital punishment) / to chop / cut / sever

shǒu - head / chief / leader / emperor / king / first (occasion, thing, etc.) / beginning / a poem / counter
for songs and poems

玩弄

January 16, 2015

Japanese Romaji: ganrou

Japanese Meaning: make sport of / toy with / play with / to trifle with

Parts:

gan(moteaso) - play / make sport of / take pleasure in / trifle with

rou(iji, masagu, moteaso) - play with / tamper / trifle with

*Note 1: in Japanese, 玩具 (a toy) is read as "omocha"

Chinese Pinyin: wánnòng

Chinese Meaning: to play with / to toy with / to dally with / to engage in / flirt with / to play jokes on / to fool / wind up / juggle with / to resort to / engage in / to employ

Parts:

wán(wàn) - to play with / joke / to have fun / to have a good time / to spend time socially (e.g. with friends) / enjoy / amuse oneself / to toy with / to trifle with / to treat without seriousness or respect / play around with / to keep something for entertainment / toy / something used for amusement / curio or antique / employ / resort to / play (tricks) / appreciate / ruminate

nòng(lòng) - to do / to manage / to handle / get / to play with / to fool with / fiddle with / to mess with / to fix / to toy with / make fun of / to mock / piece of music / ditty / music, play, or dance performance characteristics / lane / alley / alleyway

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 翫. 3 variants of the second character are 拏 弄 術

酢酸/醋

January 17, 2015

Japanese Romaji: sakusan

Japanese Meaning: acetic acid (CH_3COOH , $\text{CH}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, or $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O}_2$) / acetate

Parts:

saku(su, zu) - vinegar / acid / sour / tart

san(su) - acid / sour / sourness / sour taste / tart / bitterness

Chinese Pinyin: cùsuān

Chinese Meaning: acetic acid (CH_3COOH , $\text{CH}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, or $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O}_2$) / acetate

Parts:

cù(zuò) - vinegar / jealousy (in love affairs) / envy / toast to host by guest

suān - sour / acid / tart / sore / ache / aching / tingle / stiff / spoiled / stale / sad / grieved / sorrowful /

jealous / envious / stingy

*Note 1: the first version of the first character is more commonly used in Japanese whereas the second version is more commonly used in Chinese. (The zuò reading in Chinese [meaning “to toast the host (by a guest)”] only applies to the first version and is treated as a separate traditional Chinese character).

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 痠

閻魔

January 18, 2015

Japanese Romaji: enma

Japanese Meaning: Yama, the King of Hell [Naraka] (king of the world of the dead, who judges the dead)

Parts:

en - town

ma - demon / devil / evil spirit / witch / evil influence / someone who (habitually) performs some (negative) act

Chinese Pinyin: yánmó

Chinese Meaning: Yama, the King of Hell [Naraka] (king of the world of the dead, who judges the dead)

Parts:

yán - a village gate / the gate of a lane / Yama

mó - demon / devil / fiend / evil spirit / evil influence / evil power / evil ability / familiar spirit / magic power / magic / mystic / conjuring

*Note 1: in Japanese, Yama is also known as 閻魔大王 (enma daiou), 閻魔王 (enmaou), or 閻王 (en'ou). In Chinese, Yama is also known as several other names (such as 閻羅 [Yánluó], 閻羅王 [Yánluó Wáng], or 閻王 [Yánwáng]).

*Note 2: in Japanese superstition, it is said that Lord Yama would pull your tongue out if you lie. This is often told to children to scare them into telling the truth.

*Note 3: a variant of the first character is 閻

長袴/褲

January 19, 2015

Japanese Romaji: nagabakama / chouko

Japanese Meaning: long hakama / trailing hakama

Japanese to Chinese Translation: see note 2; 長袴 (chángkù) or 後面拖長的長褶裙 (hòumián tuōcháng de chángzhěqún)

Parts:

naga(chou, osa, tsukasa) - long / leader / chief / head (of an organization) / elder / merit / strong point / superiority / the greatest of all / the most excellent / major (music) / (archaism) office / official

bakama(hakama, ko, zubon) - hakama (traditional Japanese formal divided skirt) / a holder for a heated bottle of saké / (botany) a leaf sheath

*Note 1: 長閑 (tranquil / calm / quiet / peaceful) is read as “nodoka”.

Chinese Pinyin: chángkù

Chinese Meaning: a pair of trousers / pants / slacks

Chinese to Japanese Translation: see note 2; 長ズボン (nagazubon)

Parts:

cháng(zhǎng) - long / length / forever / always / constantly / excel in / be good at / forte / strong point / leader / chief / head (of an organization) / elder / master / older / senior / a superior / to grow / to develop / to increase / to enhance

kù - pants / trousers / breeches / breeches leggings / underpants / drawers / panties

*Note 2: the first version of the second character is almost exclusively used everywhere to refer to the Japanese hakama and very rarely used in Chinese to mean anything else. The second version of the second character is not used in Japanese at all; it usually means “pants” in Chinese (translated to ズボン “zubon” in Japanese). I am putting these two versions together because most Chinese sources say they are variants, and they have a matching Chinese meaning of “pants”, “trousers”, etc.

*Note 3: 2 variants of the first character are 𧄢 and 𧄣. Another variant of the second character is 袴

土壤/壤

January 20, 2015

Japanese Romaji: dojou

Japanese Meaning: soil

Parts:

do(tsuchi, to) - earth / soil / mud / dirt / the earth (historically, especially as opposed to the heavens) / the ground / the land / low-quality torinoko-gami (containing mud) / (period of) refraining from construction in the direction of the god of the earth (in On'youdou) / Saturday / Turkey (abbreviation)
jou - earth / soil / lot

Chinese Pinyin: tǔrǎng

Chinese Meaning: soil / ground

Parts:

tǔ - earth / soil / dirt / ground / dust / clay / items made of earth / land / territory / domain / local / native / indigenous / unsophisticated / unrefined / unenlightened / peasant / rustic / countrified / crude opium / Turkey (abbreviation) / one of the eight ancient musical instruments 八音 / Tu (ethnic group)
rǎng - soil / earth / loam / rich / land / area / territory

群峰/峯

January 21, 2015

Japanese Romaji: gunpou

Japanese Meaning: (the many peaks of a) mountain range

Parts:

gun(mu, mura) - group (of people, animals, etc.) / cluster / flock / crowd / herd / swarm / a gathering / (mathematical) group

pou(mine, hou) - peak / ridge / summit

Chinese Pinyin: qúnfēng

Chinese Meaning: the peaks of a mountain range

Parts:

qún - group / crowd / multitude / multitudinous / mob / mass / numerous / flock / herd / pack / swarm

fēng - (of a mountain) high and tapered peak or summit / mountain-like in appearance / highest level / a hump (e.g. of a camel) / counter for camels

*Note: a variant of the first character is 羣. The second version of the second character is rarely used.

瞑想

January 22, 2015

Japanese Romaji: meisou

Japanese Meaning: meditation / contemplation / muse

Parts:

mei(tsubu, tsumu) - close eyes / sleep / dark

sou(so, omo) - concept / idea / think / thought / conception / (Buddhism) samjna (perception)

Chinese Pinyin: míngxiǎng

Chinese Meaning: to muse / to think deeply / contemplation / meditation / to be lost in thoughts / to fantasize

Parts:

míng(mǐng) - to close (the eyes) / dim-sighted / blurred

xiǎng - to think / to believe / to suppose / consider / speculate / to plan / to wish / to want / would like to / remember with longing / to miss (feel wistful about the absence of somebody or something) / hope / expect

*Note 1: this word can also be written as 冥想. This alternative is more common in Chinese and less common in Japanese.

*Note 2: do not confuse the first character with 暝

節儉/儉

January 23, 2015

Japanese Romaji: sekken

Japanese Meaning: economy / thrift

Parts:

setsu(fushi, bushi, sechi) - occasion / season / time / period / (linguistic) clause / stanza / tune / melody / verse / section (of a literary work) / paragraph / passage / point / honor / a person's principles / joint / knob / knot (in wood) / knuckle / node (of a plant stem) / (taxonomical) section / part / notable characteristic / characteristic way of speaking

ken(tsuma) - frugal / thrifty / economy / economizing / thriftiness / prudence / frugality

Chinese Pinyin: jiéjiǎn

Chinese Meaning: frugal / economical / thrifty / to economize / to save money / to practice austerity

Parts:

jié(jiē) - festival / holiday / Day (used at the end of holidays) / seasons / passage / paragraph / section / segment / part / knot / node / joint / link / to economize / economise / curtail / to save / to abridge / moral integrity / principle / fidelity / constancy / uprightness / beats (music) / rhythm / time / restrain / control / restrict / counter for segments, e.g. lessons, train wagons, biblical verses

jiǎn - frugal / thrifty / economical / temperate / needy

*Note: 2 variants of the first character are 節 and 節

室町

January 24, 2015

Japanese Romaji: muromachi

Japanese Meaning: Muromachi / Muromachi bakufu, the feudal government of Japan (1336-1573 AD) under the Ashikaga shoguns / Muromachi period / Muromachi era / Ashikaga era / Ashikaga period / Muromachi district of Kyoto / Muromachi district of Tokyo

Parts:

muro(shitsu) - room / chamber / apartment / cellar / greenhouse / icehouse / drying room / Chinese "Encampment" constellation (one of the 28 mansions)

machi(chou) - town / village / block (of a city, town, etc.) / district / neighbourhood / neighborhood / street / road / 109.09 m / 0.99 hectares

Chinese Pinyin: shítǐng

Chinese Meaning: Muromachi / Muromachi bakufu, the feudal government of Japan (1336-1573 AD) under the Ashikaga shoguns / Muromachi period / Muromachi era / Ashikaga era / Ashikaga period / Muromachi district of Kyoto / Muromachi district of Tokyo

Parts:

shì - room / home / house / chamber / apartment / apartment number / flat number / work unit / grave / scabbard / family or clan / Chinese "Encampment" constellation (one of the 28 mansions)

tǐng - raised path between fields / used for Japanese place names

*Note 1: the picture is of Ashikaga Takauji (足利尊氏)

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 𠩺

先秦

January 25, 2015

Japanese Romaji: senshin

Japanese Meaning: pre-Qin period, Chinese history up to the foundation of the Qin imperial dynasty in 221 BC

Parts:

sen(saki, ma) - previous / prior / former / old / some time ago / preceding / point (e.g. of a pencil) / tip / end / nozzle / head (of a line) / front / ahead / the other side / before / precedence / future / hereafter / destination / the other party / first move / opening move / sequel

shin(hata) - Qin (dynasty of China; 221-206 BC) / Ch'in / feudal state of Qin / Manchu dynasty / name given to naturalized foreigners

Chinese Pinyin: xiānqín

Chinese Meaning: pre-Qin period, Chinese history up to the foundation of the Qin imperial dynasty in 221 BC

Parts:

xiān - early / prior / former / previous / preceding / antecedent / before / earlier / early on / in advance / first / lead / initiative / foremost / leading / pioneering / initiating / temporarily / for the time being / for now / the late... / the deceased... / one's forebears / elder generation / ancestor / forefather

qín - Qin dynasty (221-206 BC) / Ch'in / feudal state of Qin / abbreviation for 陝西 / Qin - another name for Shaanxi and Gansu provinces / ancient name of China (from Chin) as known to the people of the Western Regions

*Note: the picture is of Yu the Great (大禹; Dà Yǔ)

脛骨

January 26, 2015

Japanese Romaji: keikotsu

Japanese Meaning: tibia / shinbone / shin bone

Parts:

kei(sune, zune, hagi) - shin / shank / lower leg

kotsu(hone, bone) - bone / frame / skeleton / remains / outline / core / backbone / sprit / fortitude /

laborious / troublesome / difficult / knack / skill / trick / secret / know-how / the ropes / hang

*Note 1: although it is spelt the same way using the Roman alphabet, the Japanese pronunciation of “bone” is “bo-nay”.

*Note 2: in Japanese, 脛巾 (leggings) is read as “habaki”

Chinese Pinyin: jìnggǔ

Chinese Meaning: tibia / shinbone / shin bone

Parts:

jìng - lower part of leg / shinbone / shin bone / calf of leg

gǔ - bone / skeleton / frame / framework / (Cantonese) checkpoint, threshold

*Note 3: a variant of the first character is 脛

萤火/螢

January 27, 2015

Japanese Romaji: hotarubi / keika

Japanese Meaning: light of a firefly / glow of a firefly

Parts:

hotaru(botaru, kei) - firefly (Luciola cruciata) / lightning bug / glowworm / glow-worm

bi(ka, hi, ho) - fire / flame / blaze / (abbreviation) Tuesday

*Note 1: in Japanese, 火傷 (to burn, to scald) is read as “yakedo”.

Chinese Pinyin: yínghuǒ

Chinese Meaning: light of a firefly / fairy light

Parts:

yíng - firefly / glowworm / glow-worm / lightning bug / luminous insect

huǒ - fire / flame / blaze / fiery / flaming / burn with fire / anger / rage / temper / urgency / urgent / pressing / imminent / ammunition / internal heat (Chinese medicine) / the latent heat in a human body (Chinese medicine) / hot (popular) / a group (people) / (archaism) counter for military units

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 伙

行李

January 28, 2015

Japanese Romaji: kouri

Japanese Meaning: baggage / luggage / portmanteau / wicker trunk

Parts:

kou(i, okona, yu, yuki, an, gou, gyou) - go / going / journey / travelling / traveling / line of text / row / verse / (math) row of a matrix / type of classical Chinese verse (usually an epic) / bank / (archaism) district (of similar merchants) / guild / (Buddhism) carya (austerities) / (Buddhism) samskara (formations) / (abbreviation) running script (a semi-cursive style of kanji)
ri(sumomo) - plum / Japanese plum / Chinese plum / prune / Prunus salicina

*Note 1: in Japanese, 流行る (to spread; to become popular, etc.) is read as “hayaru”.

*Note 2: in Japanese, “baggage”, “luggage”, etc. is more commonly known as 荷物 (nimotsu).

Chinese Pinyin: xíngli

Chinese Meaning: baggage / luggage

Parts:

xíng(háng, xìng) - go / walk / move / travel / a visit / temporary / makeshift / be current / in circulation / circulate / prevail / to do / to perform / to act / practise / capable / able / competent / effective / be all right / be allowed / OK! / will do / (counter) a row / series / a line of / an ancient form of narrative poem which is usually longer than the usual four or eight lines / age order (of brothers) / rank (of seniority among siblings) / profession / professional / trade / line of business / relating to company / shop / a firm / company / behaviour / conduct / deed / (Cantonese) set up (bed space) / (Cantonese) hope / expectation

li(lǐ) - plum (fruit and tree) / judge

*Note 3: do not confuse the second character with 季

炸裂

January 29, 2015

Japanese Romaji: sakuretsu

Japanese Meaning: explosion / bursting

Parts:

saku - explosion / frying

retsu(gi, sa) - split / to tear / rend

Chinese Pinyin: zhàliè

Chinese Meaning: to split, blast, or break by explosion or bombing / to develop cracks as a result of explosion

Parts:

zhà(zhá)- to explode / to burst / to break / blow up / to blast / to bomb / to get mad / flare up / fly into a rage / to disperse boisterously / to flee in terror / to deep fry / to deep-fry / to fry in oil or deep fat / to scald

liè - to split (open) / to crack / to break open / come apart / to rend / a crack / gap

*Note: more common terms for “explosion” are 爆発 (J:bakuhatsu) or 爆炸 (C: bàozhà).

瞠目

January 30, 2015

Japanese Romaji: doumoku

Japanese Meaning: gazing at (in wonderment)

Parts:

dou(miha) - stare intently

moku(ma, me, boku) - eye / eyeball / eyesight / sight / vision / look / stare / glance / insight / experience / viewpoint / favor / care / stitch / texture / weave / class / category / ordinal number suffix (-st, -nd, -rd, -th, etc.) / somewhat / -ish / (biological) order / item (of a budget revision, etc.) / counter for go pieces / counter for surrounded positions (in go)

Chinese Pinyin: chēngmù

Chinese Meaning: to stare / to gaze at fixedly / wide-eyed

Parts:

chēng - stare at something beyond reach / to look straight at / stare at / gaze at / be wide-eyed

mù - eye / look / see / regard / item / section / list / catalogue / table of contents / order (taxonomy) / division / category / topic / goal / name / title

*Note: a variant of the first character is 瞠

囲碁/圍棋

January 31, 2015

Japanese Romaji: igo

Japanese Meaning: Go (Japanese board game of capturing territory)

Parts:

i(kako, gako) - encircle / enclosure / surround / paling / keep / preserve / store / besiege

go - Go (Japanese board game of capturing territory)

Chinese Pinyin: wéiqí

Chinese Meaning: Go (Japanese board game of capturing territory)

Parts:

wéi - to encircle / to surround / to corral / to enclose / besiege / circumference / perimeter / periphery / all around / to wear by wrapping around (scarf, shawl, etc.)

qí - chess or any board game / chess-like game / any game similar to chess / a game of chess / chess piece / chessman

*Note 1: the first version of the second character is mostly exclusively used in Japanese and is treated as a separate character from 棋. In Chinese, the first version of the second character can be considered a variant of 棋. For this project, I am counting 碁 and 棋 as two characters. Two other variants of 棋 are 碁 and 檟.

*Note 2: these kanji can reference at least 4 other different types of board games. Chinese chess is known as 象棋 (Xiàngqí) in Chinese and シャンチー (shanchii) in Japanese. Shōgi (Japanese chess) is known as 將棋 (jiàngqí) in Chinese and 将棋 (shougi) in Japanese. Western chess is known as 西洋棋 (Xīyángqí) in Chinese and チェス (chesu) in Japanese. Korean chess (Janggi) is known as 將棋 (jiàngqí) in Chinese and チャンギ (change) in Japanese.

*Note 3: the picture is based off of the board for the end of the second game of the 39th Kisei title match in Japan: <http://www.nihonkiin.or.jp/match/2015/01/2392.html>

鼾声/聲

February 1, 2015

Japanese Romaji: kansei

Japanese Meaning: snoring sound

Parts:

kan(ibiki) - snoring / a snore

sei(koe, goe, kowa, shou) - voice

Chinese Pinyin: hānshēng

Chinese Meaning: sound of snoring

Parts:

hān - a snore / to snore / snore loudly

shēng - sound / voice / tone / noise / music / language / tongue / reputation / fame / make known /
counter for sounds

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: the onomatopoeia for snoring is 呼噜 (hūlu) in Chinese. In Japanese, the onomatopoeia is ぐうぐう, ぐーぐー, or グーグー (all pronounced "guuguu").

播種

February 2, 2015

Japanese Romaji: hashu

Japanese Meaning: sowing / seeding / planting / dissemination (of viruses, disease, etc.)

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 傳播 (chuánbō) for “dissemination” of anything in general

Parts:

ha(ma, pa, ban, pan, han) - to plant / to sow

shu(kusa, gusa, tane, su) - variety / species / kind (type) / class (type) / a sort / category / seed / pip / pit / stone (of fruit) / a gamete, a reproductive cell such as a spermatozoan or egg / lineage / bloodline / quality / tone / material / matter / subject / theme / (news) copy / leaven (bread) / cause / origin / source / the materials or ingredients from which something is made / trick / secret / inside story / capital / funds / seed money

Chinese Pinyin: bōzhǒng

Chinese Meaning: to sow seeds / sowing / to seed

Parts:

bō(bò) - to sow / to seed / to plant / to scatter / to spread / to broadcast / telecast / to move / to migrate / go into exile / to cast away / reject

zhǒng(zhòng) - species / genus / strain (of plants) / kind / type / sort / race (of humans) / breed / seed / offspring / descendants / posterity / has guts (i.e. courage) / grit / nerve / to plant / to grow / to sow / to cultivate / vaccinate / receive vaccination / counter for types (kind, sort, class) / counter for languages

瞥見

February 3, 2015

Japanese Romaji: bekken

Japanese Meaning: glance / glimpse / cursory view

Parts:

betsu - glance at

ken(mi, mami) - look at / looking / viewing / see / visible / chances / idea / hopes / opinion / view (of life, etc.) / outlook

Chinese Pinyin: piējiàn

Chinese Meaning: to glimpse / to catch a glimpse of / to catch sight of

Parts:

piē - to shoot a glance at / glance / to appear in a flash / take a fleeting glance at / catch a glimpse of / dart a look at

jiàn(xiàn) - to see / observe / catch sight of / behold / perceive / view / refer to / vide / opinion / idea / to meet / call on / visit / to appear (to be something) / to seem / show evidence of / to interview / (used before a verb to indicate the passive) / (Cantonese) feel (cold, dizzy, sick, etc.) / show / appear / become visible

*Note: the second character has the variant 現 (which is also a completely separate character).

耳垢

February 4, 2015

Japanese Romaji: mimiaka / jikou

Japanese Meaning: earwax / cerumen

Parts:

mimi(ji) - ear / hearing / edge / crust (of bread) / selvedge / selvage (non-fray machined edge of fabrics)

aka(kou, ko, go, ku) - dirt / filth / grime / scum / earwax / klesha (polluting thoughts such as greed, hatred and delusion, which result in suffering)

Chinese Pinyin: ěrgòu

Chinese Meaning: ear dirt / common word for earwax (聾聵 dīngníng)

Parts:

ěr - ear / ears / merely / only / contraction of 而已 (that's all / nothing more) / and that is all (classical Chinese) / handle (archaeology)

gòu - dirt / dirty / filth / filthy / stains / grime / grimy / disgrace / humiliation / shame

*Note: in Japanese, this word is also written as 耳あか (mimiaka). Earwax is also commonly called 耳くそ / 耳糞 / 耳屎 (mimikuso). In Chinese, earwax is also commonly called 耳屎 (ěrshǐ)

遺憾

February 5, 2015

Japanese Romaji: ikan

Japanese Meaning: regrettable / unsatisfactory / deplorable / lamentable / a regret that comes from a failure of one's intention

Parts:

i(noko, yui) - bequeath / leave behind / reserve

kan(ura) - regret / remorse / be sorry

Chinese Pinyin: yíhàn

Chinese Meaning: regret / to regret / to be sorry that / regrettable / to feel sorry / lament / feel pity, sorry or regret that something has happened

Parts:

yí(wèi) - to bequeath / hand down / legacy / something lost / articles lost / to lose / to leave behind / to omit / slip over / miss / an omission due to negligence / forget / leave over / remnants / leftovers / abandon / to desert / anything left behind by the deceased / involuntary discharge (of urine, etc.) / (involuntarily) emit / urinate / excrete / offer as a gift / to present / bestow

hàn - to regret (sense of loss or dissatisfaction) / remorse / remorseful / dissatisfied / disappointed

眉月

February 6, 2015

Japanese Romaji: mayudzuki / bigetsu

Japanese Meaning: crescent moon

Japanese to Chinese Translation: see note 1 and 2

Parts:

mayu(bi, mi) - eyebrow / eyebrows

dzuki(tsuki, gatsu, getsu) - moon / month / (used to form names of months) / the lunar cycle / Monday

Chinese Pinyin: méiyuè

Chinese Meaning: waxing crescent moon

Chinese to Japanese Translation: see note 1 and 2

Parts:

méi - eyebrow / eyebrows / side / upper margin of a printed page in a book

yuè - moon / month / (used to form names of months)

*Note 1: a “crescent moon” is also known as 三日月 (J: mikadzuki), 月牙 (C: yuèyá), 纖月 (J: sengetsu), and 朏 (J: mikadzuki; C: fěi) (among other names). 新月 (C: xīnyuè; J: shingetsu) can refer to either a “new moon” or a “crescent moon”. These terms technically refers to a “waxing” moon rather than a “waning” moon, but is commonly used for both.

*Note 2: in Chinese, this term can also refer to a woman’s eyebrows or crescent-shaped eyebrows

*Note 3: a variant of the first character is 睂

吃驚

February 7, 2015

Japanese Romaji: bikkuri / kikkyou

Japanese Meaning: to be surprised / to be amazed / to be frightened / to be startled / to be astonished / to be alarmed / to jump / surprise (e.g. surprise party)

Parts:

kitsu(domo) - stammer

kyou(odoro) - be surprised / amazed / frightened / wonder

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as ビックリ (bikkuri), びっくり (bikkuri), or alternatively as 喫驚 (bikkuri / kikkyou)

*Note 2: in Japanese, 吃逆 (hiccup) is read as “shakkuri”

Chinese Pinyin: chījīng

Chinese Meaning: to be surprised / to be frightened / to be startled / to be shocked / to be amazed / to be astonished / to be taken aback

Parts:

chī(jí) - to eat / to drink / to consume / take (food) / to eat at (a cafeteria, etc.) / have one's meals / live on / absorb / soak or sponge up / to sustain / to suffer / to endure / to bear / to eradicate / to destroy / wipe out / annihilate / to exhaust / be a strain / to stammer / to stutter / falter

jīng - to be frightened / to frighten / to be scared / to alarm / to surprise / to start / startled / startle / scary / surprised

*Note 3: in Japanese, 吃 is treated as a separate character from 喫. In general, 喫 is a more commonly used character in Japanese but is sometimes interchangeable with 吃 in some rare words. In Chinese, 喫 (chī) is treated as a variant of 吃 and is used much less commonly. For this project, I am counting 喫 and 吃 as two characters.

喫緊/吃

February 8, 2015

Japanese Romaji1: kikkin

Japanese Meaning: urgency / exigency

Parts:

kitsu - consume / drink / eat / devour / ingest / to smoke / receive (a blow) / to be struck by someone or something

kin(shi) - tense (feeling) / tight / hard / solid / reliable

Japanese Romaji2: kikkin

Japanese Meaning: urgency / exigency

Parts:

kitsu(domo) - stammer

kin(shi) - tense (feeling) / tight / hard / solid / reliable

*Note 1: in Japanese, 吃驚 (to be surprised) has a common reading of “bikkuri”.

Chinese Pinyin: chījīn

Chinese Meaning: dire / tense / critical / hard-pressed / important / in short supply / tight

Parts:

chī(jī) - to eat / to drink / to consume / take (food) / to eat at (a cafeteria, etc.) / have one's meals / live on / absorb / soak or sponge up / to sustain / to suffer / to endure / to bear / to eradicate / to destroy / wipe out / annihilate / to exhaust / be a strain / to stammer / to stutter / falter

jīn - tense (feeling) / urgent / pressing (matter) / tight / to tighten / taut / firm / secure / fast / close / strict / rigorous / close at hand / near / hard up / short of money / (Cantonese) (used after a verb) aspect marker for ongoing action, in the process of

*Note 2: in Japanese, 吃 is treated as a separate character from 喫. In general, 喫 is a more commonly used character in Japanese but is sometimes interchangeable with 吃 in some rare words. In Chinese, 喫 (chī) is treated as a variant of 吃 and is used much less commonly. For this project, I am counting 喫 and 吃 as two characters.

*Note 3: another variant of the first version of the first character is 嚙

桿菌

February 9, 2015

Japanese Romaji: kankin

Japanese Meaning: bacillus / bacilli

Parts:

kan - pole / shield

kin(kinoko) - bacteria / bacterium / bacillus / germ / fungus / mushroom

Chinese Pinyin: gǎnjūn

Chinese Meaning: bacillus (any rod-shaped bacteria) / bacilli

Parts:

gǎn - stick / pole / club / lever / pole as unit / small cylindrical object, such as barrel (shaft of gun), stem (of pipe), shaft (of pen), etc., counter for long (small cylindrical) objects such as guns, spears, rifles, etc.

jūn(jùn) - bacteria / germ / microbe / mushroom / fungus / fungi / mold / mildew / toadstool / yeast / bamboo shoot

*Note 1: the simplified Chinese version of the first character (杆) is also treated as a separate character.

*Note 2: do not confuse the first character with 稈

拇指

February 10, 2015

Japanese Romaji: boshi

Japanese Meaning: thumb / big toe

Parts:

bo - thumb

shi(sa, yubi) - finger / toe / digit / indicate / point to / put into / measure (ruler) / play (chess)

Chinese Pinyin: mǔzhǐ

Chinese Meaning: thumb / big toe

Parts:

mǔ - thumb / big toe

zhǐ - finger / toe / to point at or to / to indicate / to direct / to refer to / to mean / to depend on / to count on / (of hair) to stand on end / number of people / intentions / main theme / hope

*Note: in Japanese, this word is also written as 母指. The thumb is more commonly known as 親指 (oyayubi) in Japanese. Note that since 指 can refer to either fingers or toes ("digit" in English), each finger and toe has the same name. Chinese and Japanese differentiate toes and fingers by combining 指 and the appropriate characters for hands and feet.

僧尼/僧

February 11, 2015

Japanese Romaji: souni

Japanese Meaning: monks and nuns

Parts:

sou(zou) - Buddhist priest / monk / bonze

ni(ama) - nun / (Derogatory) / bhikkhuni (fully ordained Buddhist nun)

Chinese Pinyin: sēngní

Chinese Meaning: (Buddhist) monks and nuns

Parts:

sēng - Buddhist / Buddhist priest / monk / Sangha, the Buddhist monastic order

ní - Buddhist nun / (often used in phonetic spellings, transliterations)

管轄

February 12, 2015

Japanese Romaji: kankatsu

Japanese Meaning: jurisdiction / control

Parts:

kan(kuda) - pipe / tube / wind instrument / drunken talk

katsu(kusabi) - control / wedge / linchpin / lynchpin

Chinese Pinyin: guǎnxiá

Chinese Meaning: to administer / to have jurisdiction (over) / to have control over

Parts:

guǎn - tube / pipe / duct / woodwind music / wind musical instrument / administer / govern / to take care (of) / to control / to manage / to be in charge of / to look after / to run (something) / to care about / (spoken) to / (colloquial) to / towards / bother about / interfere with / meddle / provide / furnish / guarantee / counter for tube-shaped objects / particle similar to 把 in 管...叫 constructions / writing brush

xiá - to govern / to control / administer / having jurisdiction over / linchpin of a wheel (archaism) / noise of a barrow

*Note: a variant of the first character is 筧. Two variants of the second character are 鑄 and 輦

遼遠

February 13, 2015

Japanese Romaji: ryouen

Japanese Meaning: distant / remote / far off

Parts:

ryou - distant

en(too, on) - distant / far

Chinese Pinyin: liáoyuǎn

Chinese Meaning: distant / far away / remote

Parts:

liáo - distant / remote / faraway / far / Liao River / short name for Liaoning 遼寧 province / Liao or Khitan dynasty (907-1125)

yuǎn(yuàn) - distant / far away (in time or space) / distant in relationship / by far / far and away / not anywhere near / remote / profound / deep / keep at a distance / keep away from / shun / avoid / to distance oneself from (classical)

*Note 1: this term can refer to a physical distance (e.g. a remote location) or a figurative distance (e.g. far away from a goal).

*Note 2: 遼東の豕 (ryoutou no inoko) is a Japanese idiom (literally meaning “Liaodong pig”) with the following English interpretations:

- someone so ignorant of the outside world that he thinks of himself as one-in-a-million (when really it's more like one-in-five)
- taking pride in something mundane, thinking it is exceptional

抒情

February 14, 2015

Japanese Romaji: jojou

Japanese Meaning: lyricism / description or expression of one's feelings

Parts:

jo - tell / 10^24

jou(nasa, ze) - emotion / feelings / sentiment / sympathy / compassion / pity / passion / affection / love
/ facts / circumstances / the way things really are / the actual situation

Chinese Pinyin: shūqíng

Chinese Meaning: to express one's emotion / to express one's feelings / convey one's emotions / lyric
(song, prose, etc.) / sentimental

Parts:

shū - to express / to give expression to / convey / eliminate / to relieve

qíng - feeling / emotion / sentiment / passion / affection / love / situation / fact / detail / condition /
nature / reason

*Note 1: this word describes emotion in an artistic context (such as in works of art, music, poetry, literature, etc.) In Japanese, this word is also written as 叙情. In traditional Chinese, this word is alternatively described with 敘情 or 敍情 (read as "xùqíng", defined as "to bare one's heart in conversation, writing, etc.")

*Note 2: the first character is also a variant of 紓

木釘

February 15, 2015

Japanese Romaji: kikugi

Japanese Meaning: wooden peg

Parts:

ki(gi, ko, moku, boku) - tree / shrub / wood / wooden / timber / lumber / wood grain / the bent and gnarled trunk or roots of an old tree / Thursday / in ancient China, a wooden musical instrument

kugi(tei) - nail (i.e. small metal spike) / peg / tack

Chinese Pinyin: mùdīng

Chinese Meaning: wooden peg

Parts:

mù - tree / wood / wooden / made of wood / timber / lumber / coffin / simple / honest / senseless / numb / dull / benumbed / one of the eight ancient musical instruments 八音

dīng(dìng) - nail (i.e. small metal spike) / tack / screw / spike / to follow closely / pursue closely / to tail / to keep at somebody (to do something) / to urge / to press / to join things together by fixing them in place at one or more points / to nail / drive in (a nail) / to pin / to staple / to sew on

*Note: the second character is also a variant of 叮

右脇/脅

February 16, 2015

Japanese Romaji: migiwaki

Japanese Meaning: right armpit / right side

Parts:

migi(u, yuu) - right (direction) / right-hand side / afore-mentioned (especially in Japanese vertical writing) / foregoing / forgoing / above statement / right wing (political) / a rightist
waki(wake, kyou, katawara) - armpit / the underarm / under one's arm / the underarm area of clothing / flank / the side / beside / besides / close to / near / by / nearby / aside / to the side / edge / away / out of the way / another place / the other way / off-track / off-topic / a tangent, such as in a conversation / deuteragonist / supporting role / secondary role / something of lesser importance / something on the back burner / while (doing) / (abbreviation) second verse (in a linked series of poems) / somewhere, someone, or something else / (archaism) threaten

Chinese Pinyin: yòuxié

Chinese Meaning: right side (of one's torso) / right flank

Parts:

yòu - right (direction) / right-hand side / the Right (politics) / right-wing / west / assist / aid / emphasize
xié - to coerce / to threaten / to force / flank (the side of one's torso, side of human body between armpit and waist) / ribs / armpits / shrug (shoulders)

*Note 1: in Japanese, 脇 and 脅 are treated as two separate characters and are never interchangeable (roughly dividing the meanings of "side" and "threaten"). In traditional Chinese, 脇 and 脅 share meanings and are variants of each other, with 脅 being most commonly used. For this project, I am counting 脇 and 脅 as two characters.

*Note 2: a variant of 脅 is 脅

左膝

February 17, 2015

Japanese Romaji: hidarihiza

Japanese Meaning: left knee

Parts:

hidari(sa) - left (direction) / left-hand side / leftist (politics) / left (especially in vertical Japanese writing)
/ the following

hiza(shitsu) - knee / lap

Chinese Pinyin: zuǒxī

Chinese Meaning: left knee

Parts:

zuǒ - left (direction) / left side / the Left (politics) / east / east side / unorthodox / differing / opposite /
wrong / erroneous / mistaken / queer / improper / supporting / assist / be demoted / descend /
inconvenience / inconvenient / unduly stubborn / disobey / disregard

xī - knee

*Note: the first character is also a variant of 佐 (which is also a separate character). A variant of the
second character is 𦵒

晦渋/澁

February 18, 2015

Japanese Romaji: kaijuu

Japanese Meaning: ambiguous / obscure / equivocal / obfuscation

Parts:

kai(tsugomori, miso, misoka, kura) - dark / disappear / last day of the month

juu(shibu) - bitter / astringent / hesitate / reluctant / astringent (puckery) juice (of unripe persimmons) / have diarrhea

*Note 1: 大晦日 (oomisoka) is Japanese for “New Year’s Eve” (December 31).

*Note 2: in Japanese, archaic readings of 晦 by itself include “tsukikomori” and “tsukigomori”. 晦日 can be read as “misoka” or “tsugomori”. They all mean “the last day of the month”.

Chinese Pinyin: huìsè

Chinese Meaning: difficult to understand / cryptic / not easily understood / obscure / abstruse / inkhorn / pedantic

Parts:

huì - dark / unclear / obscure / gloomy / night / dusk / unlucky / bad luck / last day of a lunar month

sè - astringent / tart / acerbity / puckery / taste-numbing / unsmooth / rough (surface) / uneven / blunt / harsh / hard to understand / obscure / difficult

*Note 3: the second character has three other old variants: 澁澁澁

獅子

February 19, 2015

Japanese Romaji: shishi

Japanese Meaning: lion (see note 3)

Parts:

shi(ji) - lion

shi(ko, go, ne, ji, su, zu, mi) - child / young (animal) / young woman / young geisha / offshoot / interest / new shares / offspring / fruit / nut / seed / an object which has a subservient or derivative role relative to another object / (suffix) (after a noun or -masu stem) -er (often of young women) / smaller or younger version of a bigger object / (in broth) pieces of meat, vegetables, etc. / content / substance / viscount / (honorific) master (founder of a school of thought, esp. Confucius) / philosophy (branch of Chinese literature) / non-Confucian Hundred Schools of Thought writings / first sign of the Chinese zodiac / sign of the rat (zodiac)

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word can alternatively be written as 師子. Also, lions are more commonly known as ライオン (raion).

*Note 2: in Japanese, “glass” can be written as ガラス or 硝子 (read as “garasu”). Also, 餃子 (gyoza “dumplings”) is read as “gyouza”.

Chinese Pinyin: shīzi

Chinese Meaning: lion (see note 3)

Parts:

shī - lion

zi(zǐ) - son / daughter / child / young (animal) / offspring / newborn / tender / small / sub- / subsidiary / subordinate / being / person / learned or virtuous man / master / fruit / nut / seed / egg / small thing / viscount / master / a designation used in speaking of or to a man in former times / (noun suffix) / a suffix for small objects / first sign of the Chinese zodiac / sign of the rat (zodiac)

*Note 3: in either Chinese or Japanese, this word can refer to the lion (or lion-dog) statues commonly seen guarding temples, palaces, shrines, etc. In Japanese, the meaning can vary depending on location, time, and context (for example, these statues are more commonly called 狛犬 [komainu] in Japanese today, but some places have a hornless “shishi” paired with a horned “komainu”.) This word can also refer to the lions seen in Chinese lion dances, and anything else based on a lion (such as the constellation Leo [read as “shīzi” in Chinese]).

銀錠

February 20, 2015

Japanese Romaji: ginjou

Japanese Meaning: silver ingot / silver sycee

Parts:

gin(shirogane) - silver / silver coin / silver paint / silver thread / silver color / silver general (shogi)

jou - fetters / locks / shackles / padlock / tablet / lozenge / pill

Chinese Pinyin: yíndìng

Chinese Meaning: silver ingot / silver sycee / silver bullion

Parts:

yín - silver / argentum (Ag) / silver-colored / silvery / relating to money or currency / cash / coin / money / wealth

dìng - (weaving) spindle / ingot / slab / pressed cake of medicine, etc. / ingot-shaped tablet / counter for gold and silver ingots, ink sticks

*Note: in Chinese, a more common term for “sycee” is 元寶 (yuánbǎo).

鉄拳/鐵

February 21, 2015

Japanese Romaji: tekken

Japanese Meaning: a (clenched) fist / iron fist

Parts:

tetsu(kurogane) - iron (metal) / ferrum (Fe) / (figuratively) something extremely strong

ken(kobushi, gen) - fist / hand game (e.g. rock, paper, scissors)

Chinese Pinyin: tiěquán

Chinese Meaning: a (clenched) fist / iron fist

Parts:

tiě - iron (metal) / ferrum (Fe) / hard / strong / solid / firm / ironclad / unshakeable / determined / violent / cruel / merciless / ruthless / unfeeling / railway / arms / weapons / close / tight (slang)

quán - fist / various forms of boxing / strength

*Note: three other variants of the first character are: 鍊鐵鐵. In Chinese, 鐵 is also a variant of 鉄 (zhì).

舷梯

February 22, 2015

Japanese Romaji: gentei

Japanese Meaning: gangway (ladder)

Parts:

gen(funaberi) - gunwale / side of a boat

tei(hashi, hashigo, bashi, bashigo, kakehashi) - ladder / stairs / insatiable drinking / going to several places in succession (e.g. barhopping) / suspension bridge / viaduct / temporary bridge / mediation / go-between

*Note: in Japanese, this is more commonly known as a タラップ (tarappu).

Chinese Pinyin: xiántī

Chinese Meaning: gangway / ramp (to board a ship or plane)

Parts:

xián - gunwale / bulwarks / side of a ship or aircraft

tī - ladder / stairs / steps / lean / something shaped like a ladder or staircase

金箔

February 23, 2015

Japanese Romaji: kinpaku

Japanese Meaning: gold leaf / gold foil / gilt / beaten gold

Parts:

kin(kana, kane, gane, kon, gon) - gold / golden (color) / money / metal / metaphor for (most) valuable / gold (medal, cup, etc.) / Friday / karat / carat / (colloquialism) testicles

paku(haku) - foil / (gold, etc.) leaf / gilt

Chinese Pinyin: jīnbó

Chinese Meaning: gold leaf / gold foil / gilt

Parts:

jīn - gold / golden / money / wealth / metal / generic term for lustrous and ductile metals / highly respected / weapons / arms / precious / excellent / fine / durable

bó - metal foil / leaf / sheet / tinsel / gilt / bamboo screen / door screen / reed screen / woven screen or matting (of reeds, etc.) / frame for growing silkworms / bamboo tray (for rearing silkworm)

硯石

February 24, 2015

Japanese Romaji: suzuri'ishi

Japanese Meaning: inkstone / stone used to make an inkstone

Parts:

suzuri - inkstone / ink-stone

ishi(seki, koku, shaku) - stone / rock / gem / jewel / measure of volume (approx. 180.39 liters, 6.37 cub. ft.) / measure of a Japanese-style boat's loading capacity (approx. 278.26 liters)

Chinese Pinyin: yànrshí

Chinese Meaning: ink stone / ink slab

Parts:

yàn - inkstone / ink-stone / ink slab

shí(dàn) - stone / rock / mineral / gem / jewel / stone tablets / medicines / calculus (as a kidney calculus, kidney stone) / stone inscription / barren (as a barren woman) / one of the eight ancient musical instruments 八音 / dry measure for grain equal to ten dou 斗 / ten pecks / one hundred liters

*Note: a variant of the second character is 否

津浪

February 25, 2015

Japanese Romaji: tsunami

Japanese Meaning: tsunami / tidal wave

Parts:

tsu(shin, dzu) - harbor / harbour / port / ferry / haven

nami(rou,ro) - billows / waves / wandering

Chinese Pinyin: jīnlàng

Chinese Meaning: tsunami / tidal wave

Parts:

jīn - a ferry crossing / a ford (river crossing) / ferry / saliva / sweat / delicious / moisten / dampen

làng - wave / billows / breaker / something resembling waves / unrestrained / reckless / be rash / dissipated / dissolute / debauched / wasteful

*Note: in Japanese, “tsunami” is more commonly written as 津波, and also has the rare form 海嘯 (this rare form has an alternate reading of “kaishou” meaning “tidal bore”). In Chinese, a “tsunami” is more commonly known as a 海嘯 (hǎixiào).

瓢虫/蟲

February 26, 2015

Japanese Romaji: tentoumushi

Japanese Meaning: ladybug / ladybird

Parts:

tentou(hisago, hyou, byou, pyou, fukube) - gourd / Lagenaria siceraria var. gourda (variety of bottle gourd) / gourd (container) made from its fruit / Lagenaria siceraria var. depressa (variety of bottle gourd)

mushi(chuu, ki) - bug / insect / cricket / moth / worm / temper / a person living for only one thing / a thought which is in the deep in mind

*Note 1: in Japanese, this is more commonly written as テントウムシ and alternatively as 天道虫.

Chinese Pinyin: piáochóng

Chinese Meaning: ladybug / ladybird

Parts:

piáo - ladle made from dried gourd / wooden spoon / dipper / ladle

chóng - worm / insect / bug / lower form of animal life, including insects, insect larvae, worms and similar creatures / generic term for animals / person with a particular undesirable characteristic

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character

疼痛

February 27, 2015

Japanese Romaji: toutsuu

Japanese Meaning: a sharp pain / an ache

Parts:

tou(uzu) - pain / ache / fester / tingle

tsuu(ita) - bruise / damage / hurt / pain / ache / -algia / ouch / ow

Chinese Pinyin: téngtòng

Chinese Meaning: pain / to ache / sore

Parts:

téng - aches / pains / (it) hurts / sore / to love dearly / be fond of / dote on

tòng - hurt / pain / ache / painful / aching / physically or mentally sore / sorry / sad / sorrow / sorrowful
/ poignant / bitterly / bitter / heartily / to one's heart's content / deeply / thoroughly

柴犬

February 28, 2015

Japanese Romaji: shibainu / shibaken

Japanese Meaning: Shiba (Japanese breed of small dog, native of Shikoku) / brushwood dog

Parts:

shiba(shi) - firewood / brushwood / brush

inu(ken) - dog (Canis (lupus) familiaris) / canine / one who is loyal (like a dog) / snoop (i.e. a detective, a spy, etc.) / (noun prefix) counterfeit, inferior, useless, wasteful

Chinese Pinyin: cháiquǎn

Chinese Meaning: Shiba (Japanese breed of small dog, native of Shikoku) / brushwood dog

Parts:

cháí - firewood / faggots / fuel / brushwood / lean (of meat) / thin (of a person)

quǎn - dog / canine

*Note: a variant of the second character is 友

燦爛

March 1, 2015

Japanese Romaji: sanran

Japanese Meaning: brilliant / bright / radiant

Parts:

san - brilliant / resplendent

ran(tada) - brilliant / bright / be sore / bleary / fester / inflamed

Chinese Pinyin: càn làn

Chinese Meaning: to glitter / glittering / brilliant / splendid / resplendent / bright / glorious / gorgeous / magnificent

Parts:

càn - glorious / bright / brilliant / vivid / illuminating / lustrous / resplendent / dazzling / (Cantonese) (derogatory) bumpkin

làn - bright / bright-colored / brilliant / soft / mushy / well-cooked and soft / pappy / to rot / decomposed / rotten / spoiled / decayed / worn-out / torn / broken / chaotic / messy / disorderly / jumbled / utterly / thoroughly / completely / (Cantonese) cheesy, crummy, lacking style / (Cantonese) addicted to, crave for

*Note: a variant of the second character is 爛. Another variant is 爛, which is also a separate Japanese character.

点睛/點

March 2, 2015

Japanese Romaji: tensei

Japanese Meaning: adding eyes and other finishing touches to an animal painting

Parts:

ten(sa, ta, tsu, tobo, tomo , botsu, bochi) - spot / dot / speck / decimal point / mark (exam) / score / point(s) / grade / counter for goods or items / to light (a fire) / to ignite / to kindle
sei - pupil of the eye

Chinese Pinyin: diǎnjīng

Chinese Meaning: to dot in the eyes / (figurative) to add the finishing touch / the crucial point that brings the subject to life / (said of writing) to provide striking key points / to write the punchline

Parts:

diǎn - drop (of liquid) / stain / spot / dot / speck / decimal point / mark (exam) / score / point(s) / degree / to draw a dot / to check on a list / to choose / to order (food in a restaurant) / a place (with certain characteristics) / snacks / refreshments / o'clock / hours / a little / a bit / small amount / some / instruct / to teach / to touch on briefly / to hint / to make clear / to check / examine / investigate / review / select / pick out / to light (a fire) / to ignite / light up / to kindle / to pour a liquid drop by drop / nod (the head) / to touch / to point at / counter for small indeterminate quantities / counter for items / dot stroke in Chinese characters / (Cantonese) how?

jīng - eye / eyeball / pupil of the eye

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: do not confuse the second character with 睛

*Note 3: in Japanese, this word appears in the idiom 画竜点睛/画龍点睛 (garyoutensei). In Chinese, this word appears in the idiom 畫龍點睛 (huàlóngdiǎnjīng). They both mean literally "to paint a dragon and dot in the eyes" and figuratively "to add the finishing touch". (This is also the Japanese name of the Pokémon move "Dragon Ascent" :P)

書齋/齋

March 3, 2015

Japanese Romaji: shosai

Japanese Meaning: a study / a library / den / home office / reading room / sanctum

Parts:

sho(ka, ga, gaki) - write / document / book / penmanship / handwriting / calligraphy (especially Chinese)

sai(itsu, i, imi, toki) - room / religious purification / worship / mourning / abstinence / pure / holy / alike
/ avoid / taboo / Buddhist food / meals exchanged by parishioners and priests

Chinese Pinyin: shūzhāi

Chinese Meaning: a study (room)

Parts:

shū - book / letter / writings / document / certificate / write / describe / style of calligraphy / script

zhāi - to fast or abstain from meat, wine, etc. / vegetarian diet or meal / study room / building for study
/ to give alms (to a monk) / (Cantonese) only, plain, simply

*Note: another variant of the second character is 齋 (which is a variant of 齊齊齋).

扮装/装

March 4, 2015

Japanese Romaji: funsou

Japanese Meaning: make-up / a get-up / a disguise

Parts:

fun - disguise / dress up / impersonate / thin shingles

sou(yosoo, shou) - clothing / attire / dress / disguise / pretend / profess / binding (of a book)

Chinese Pinyin: bànzhuāng

Chinese Meaning: makeup / to disguise / to make up

Parts:

bàn - to disguise oneself as / to dress up / dress up as / impersonate / to play (a role) / play a part / act as / simulate / to put on (an expression) / to make faces / (Cantonese) pretend, feign, sham /

(Cantonese) beat somebody or something with a long pole

zhuāng - clothing / dress / attire / outfit / clothes and personal effects / costume (of an actor in a play) / disguise / adornment / to adorn / decorate / to dress / make up / ornamental dressing / to play a role / to pretend / to feign / to install (machines, equipment, etc.) / to fix / to wrap (something in a bag) / to load / to pack / fill in / fill up / store up / keep

*Note 1: this word can be used in any context of dressing up as something else, such as for acting, for deception, or for enjoyment.

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

褪色

March 5, 2015

Japanese Romaji: taishoku

Japanese Meaning: fading / faded colour / faded color

Parts:

tai(a, sa, za) - discolor / discolour / fade

shoku(iro, shiki) - color / colour / tint / tinge / hue / shade / facial expression / complexion / appearance / look / sensuality / love / lust / love affair / lover / kind / sort / type / variety / (Buddhism) rupa (form) / visible objects (i.e. color and form) / counter for colors

Chinese Pinyin: tuìsè / tuìshǎi / tùnsè

Chinese Meaning: to fade (of colors) / color fading / colour fading / discoloration

Parts:

tuì(tùn) - (of color) to fade / to discolor / to discolour / to take off (clothes) / to strip / undress / fall off / to shed hairs or feathers / to slip out of something / to slip part of body (e.g. an arm) out of clothing (e.g. sleeve) / to hide something in one's sleeve / (Cantonese) retreat, move backward or sideward

sè(shǎi) - color / colour / tint / tinge / hue / shade / facial expression / complexion / appearance / look / beauty / desire for beauty / sensuality / lust / lewdness / sex / carnal pleasure / kind / sort / type / variety / form / body / dice / worldly things

*Note: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as 退色. In Chinese, this word is alternatively written as 褪色.

鑄造/鑄

March 6, 2015

Japanese Romaji: chuuzou

Japanese Meaning: casting (metal) / founding / minting / coinage

Parts:

chuu(i) - casting / to mint

zou(tsuku, dzuku) - create / make / structure / physique

Chinese Pinyin: zhùzào

Chinese Meaning: to cast (pour metal into a mold) / to melt / to mint (coins) / to forge

Parts:

zhù - to cast or found metals / melt / to coin / to mint / educate / nurture (a talent)

zào - create / to make / to build / construct / invent / manufacture / prepare / begin / crop / harvest / achievement / attainment / accomplishment / go to / arrive at / visit


*Note 1: the Chinese term also includes the meaning of “educate” (i.e. to figuratively mold a person).

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 鑄

八卦

March 7, 2015

Japanese Romaji: hakke

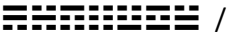
Japanese Meaning: bagua, the eight divinatory trigrams of the I Ching (易經, Yìjīng, Book of Changes),  / eight trigrams / divination signs / fortune-telling / augury / divination / scrying

Parts:

hachi(ya, yatsu, you) - eight

ke(ka, kei) - a divination sign / divination symbol

Chinese Pinyin: bāguà

Chinese Meaning: bagua, the eight divinatory trigrams of the I Ching (易經, Yìjīng, Book of Changes),  / (slang) gossip, gossipy / superstitious

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 口さがない (kuchisaganai) or 口喧しい (kuchiyakamashii) for “gossipy”; 迷信深い (meishinbukai) for “superstitious”

Parts:

bā - eight / all around / all sides

guà - divinatory diagram / divinatory symbols / one of the eight divinatory trigrams of the Book of Changes 易經 / one of the sixty-four divinatory hexagrams of the Book of Changes 易經 / fortune telling / tell fortunes / divination / horoscope

*Note 1: the 八卦 (bāguà) of Taoist cosmology includes a group of eight characters which refer to a trigram and represents the fundamental principles of reality. The eight characters are: 乾兌離震巽坎艮坤. There are also 64 hexagrams based on these eight and they are described in the Chinese classical text known as the I Ching (易經, Yìjīng, Book of Changes). For further information, see the links below:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ba_gua

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_Ching

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is ㄅ

十誠

March 8, 2015

Japanese Romaji: jikkai

Japanese Meaning: the Ten Commandments / Decalogue / Decalog

Parts:

jitsu(to, too, so, juu , jutsu) - ten

kai(imashi) - admonish / prohibit / warn

*Note 1: in Japanese, 二十歳 (20 years old) is read as “hatachi”, 二十日 (20th day of the month) is read as “hatsuka”, 十六夜 (16th night of the month) is read as “izayoi”, and 九十九 (ninety-nine) is also read as “tsukumo”

Chinese Pinyin: shíjiè

Chinese Meaning: the Ten Commandments / Decalogue / Decalog

Parts:

shí - ten / tenth / complete / completely / perfect / perfectly / extremely

jiè - admonish / warn / warning / to prohibit / commandment

*Note 2: in Japanese and Chinese, this word is alternatively written as 十戒. This alternative version is more common in Japanese and its meaning can include similar concepts in other religions (e.g. 10 precepts of Buddhism).

黄昏/黄

March 9, 2015

Japanese Romaji: tasogare / koukon

Japanese Meaning: dusk / twilight

Parts:

kou(ou, ki, ko) - yellow

kon - dusk / dark / evening

*Note 1: in Japanese, 黄昏れる (to fade into dusk, to decline, to wane) has the reading of "tasogareru".

Chinese Pinyin: huánghūn

Chinese Meaning: dusk / evening / nightfall

Parts:

huáng - yellow / to fall through

hūn - dusk / twilight / nightfall / dark / dim / murky / confused / muddled / dizzy / muddle-headed / to faint / to lose consciousness

*Note 2: this word can refer to either a time of day or a period of decline (such as in one's old age).

*Note 3: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 4: a variant of the second character is 昏

曙光

March 10, 2015

Japanese Romaji: shokou

Japanese Meaning: dawn / daybreak / first light of day / the first light of dawn / prospects / first indication / glimpse / gleam / flash / rays of hope

Parts:

sho(akebono) - dawn / daybreak / beginning

kou(hikari, hika) - light / ray

Chinese Pinyin: shǔguāng / shùguāng

Chinese Meaning: dawn / the first light of morning / the first light of dawn / light at dawn / morning twilight / (figurative) the dawn of a new era

Parts:

shǔ(shù) - daybreak / dawn / bright / light of rising sun / the dawn of a new epoch (metaphor)

guāng - light / brilliant / brightness / shine / bright / light rays / beam / glossy / smooth / glory / glorious / honor / exhaust / use up / alone / only / merely / bare / naked

*Note 1: this word can refer to either a time of day or the first sign of good things to come (e.g. a ray of hope, dawn of civilization, a chance at victory, future prospects, etc.)

*Note 2: 2 variants of the second character are 光 and 莢

貫徹

March 11, 2015

Japanese Romaji: kantetsu

Japanese Meaning: accomplishment / achievement / realization / realisation / carrying out / putting something into effect / penetration

Parts:

kan(gan, tsuranu, nuki, nu) - penetrate / pierce / counter for pieces of sushi / kan (obsolete unit of weight, approximately 3.75 kg, 8½ lbs.) / kan (obsolete unit of currency) / brace / crosspiece (between pillars, etc.) / penetrating tie beam

tetsu(too) - clear / penetrate / pierce / strike home / sit up (all night)

Chinese Pinyin: guànchè

Chinese Meaning: to implement / to put into practice / to carry out through-out / thoroughly / from beginning to end / to adhere to / go through with something

Parts:

guàn - to pierce through / to pass through / penetrate / to go through / connect / link up / well versed in / understand thoroughly / one's native place / to be stringed together / (archaism) a string of 1000 coins

chè - thorough / complete / exhaustive / penetrating / penetrate / pierce / to pervade / to pass through

*Note 1: in general, this word means "to carry out one's objectives, goals, ambitions, etc. through to the end".

*Note 2: This is the 1500th word. The first character is the 2500th kanji.

欺騙

March 12, 2015

Japanese Romaji: gihen

Japanese Meaning: deception / fallacy

Parts:

gi(azamu) - cheat / deceit / delude

hen(kata, dama) - deceive

Chinese Pinyin: qīpiàn

Chinese Meaning: to deceive / to cheat / to swindle / to defraud / to hoodwink / dupe

Parts:

qī - to deceive / to cheat / swindle / double-cross / impose on / take unfair advantage of / insult / to bully / disregard the dictates of one's own conscience

piàn - to cheat out of / to swindle / to deceive / defraud / hoodwink / to fool / to get on (a horse, etc.) by swinging one leg over

*Note: a variant of the second character is 騙

横綱/横

March 13, 2015

Japanese Romaji: yokodzuna

Japanese Meaning: yokozuna (sumo grand champion)

Parts:

yoko(ou) - side (of a box, etc.) / beside / aside / next to / sideways / horizontal (as opposed to vertical) / lying down / side-to-side (as opposed to front-to-back) / breadth / width / unconnected / woof
dzuna(tsun, kou) - rope / cord / cable / hawser / sumo grand champion's braided belt / class (biological genus)

Chinese Pinyin: hénggāng

Chinese Meaning: yokozuna (sumo grand champion)

Parts:

héng(hèng) - horizontal / across / sideways / crosswise / lateral / transverse / running from east to west or west to east / horizontal character stroke / unrestrainedly / fiercely / turbulently / harsh and unreasonable / perverse / unexpected / inauspicious / untoward
gāng - heavy rope / hawser / guiding principle / main points / key link / essential part / key part / outline / program / class (biology, taxonomy) / (archaism) head rope, main rope of a fishing net / (archaism) organization for transporting goods

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: do not confuse the second character with 網

襟懷/懷

March 14, 2015

Japanese Romaji: kinkai

Japanese Meaning: (one's) inner thoughts / feelings

Parts:

kin(eri) - collar / lapel / neck / neckband

kai(ida, omo, nazu, natsu, futokoro) - become attached to / miss someone / yearn / feelings / heart / mind / bosom / breast / (breast) pocket / purse / handbag / a surrounded place (e.g. deep in the mountains)

Chinese Pinyin: jīnhuái

Chinese Meaning: bosom (the seat of emotions) / one's mind / one's feelings, ambitions, aspirations, bosom, (breadth of) mind, etc.

Parts:

jīn - lapel / collar / front of a garment / overlap of Chinese gown / (figurative) bosom (the seat of emotions) / breadth of mind / to cherish (ambition, desires, honorable intentions, etc.) in one's bosom / brothers-in-law whose wives are sisters / endure / to bear

huái - bosom / chest / breast / heart / mind / feeling / to think of / cherish / to harbor in one's mind / (to) harbour / carry in bosom / to miss / to long for / to conceive (a child)

*Note: a variant of the first character is 衿 (which is also a separate character). Another variant of the second character is 裏.

沙漠

March 15, 2015

Japanese Romaji: sabaku

Japanese Meaning: a desert

Parts:

sa(suna, za, sha, isago, isa) - sand / grit / one hundred-millionth (10^{-8})

baku - a desert / obscure / vague / wide

Chinese Pinyin: shāmò

Chinese Meaning: a desert

Parts:

shā - sand / grit / powder / tiny gravel / pebbles / granule / granulated / something resembling sand / something granular or powdery / utensils made of sand or pottery lay / (of voice) hoarse / raspy / husky / (Abbreviation) Tsar or Tsarist Russia / one hundred-millionth (10^{-8})

mò - a desert / unconcerned / aloof / indifferent / cool / 10^{-12}

*Note: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as 砂漠. This alternative is also rarely used in Chinese.

涼亭

March 16, 2015

Japanese Romaji: ryoutei

Japanese Meaning: (archaism) pavilion in a garden (used to keep cool) / gazebo / arbor / arbour / bower / summerhouse

Parts:

ryou(suzu) - nice and cool / refreshing

tei(chin) - arbor / arbour / bower / pavilion / cottage / mansion / restaurant / music hall / stage name / vaudeville / suffix forming the final part of the pseudonyms of some writers and performers

*Note: in Japanese, this is more commonly known as a あずまや / 東屋 / 四阿 / あずま屋 (azumaya).

Chinese Pinyin: liángtíng

Chinese Meaning: pavilion (e.g. in a garden where one can rest) / arbor / arbour / bower / gazebo / pergola / summer house / summerhouse / kiosk / wayside pavilion / (formerly) a shed along a highway or country road, to provide a place to rest for travelers

Parts:

liáng - cool / cold / cool place / desolate / forlorn / god-forsaken / disheartened / depressed / discouraged / disappointed / let something cool off

tíng - pavilion / booth / kiosk / a stall / a stand / erect / well-balanced / even

馬蹄

March 17, 2015

Japanese Romaji: batei

Japanese Meaning: horse's hooves / hoof of a horse / horseshoe (see note 1)

Parts:

ba(uma, ma) - horse / promoted bishop (shogi) / a sawhorse

tei(hidzume) - hoof

Chinese Pinyin: mǎtí

Chinese Meaning: horse's hoof / horseshoe / Chinese water chestnut (Eleocharis dulcis or E. congesta)

Chinese to Japanese Translation: シログワイ (shiroguwai) for "Chinese water chestnut"

Parts:

mǎ - horse / horse or cavalry piece in Chinese chess / knight in Western chess / (abbreviation) Malaysia

tí - hoof / pig's trotters / leg of pork / leg of beasts / little witch

*Note 1: in Chinese, a horseshoe is also known as a 馬蹄鐵 (mǎtítiě); in Japanese, a horseshoe is more commonly known as a 蹄鉄 (teitetsu). In Chinese, the water chestnut is also known more technically as 荸薺 (bíqí) (among other names); in Cantonese dim sum, it is used in 馬蹄糕 (mǎtígāo; maa5 tai4 gou1).

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 蹏

窪地

March 18, 2015

Japanese Romaji: kubochi

Japanese Meaning: low ground / a hollow / pit / basin / a depression / a sunken place

Parts:

kubo - become hollow / cave in / depression / a sink

chi(ji) - earth / ground / land / soil / dirt / place / area / a piece of land / territory / dominion / bottom (of a package, book, crate, etc.) / the region in question / the local area / skin / texture / fabric / material / weave / base / background / one's true nature / narrative (i.e. descriptive part of a story) / real life / actuality / (in the game of Go) captured territory / noh chorus / (in Japanese dance) accompaniment music / (in Japanese music) basic phrase (usually repetitive) / base part (of multiple shamisens)

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is also written as くぼ地 or 凹地

Chinese Pinyin: wādì

Chinese Meaning: a depression / a hollow / trough / lowland / low-lying ground / low-lying land / marsh land

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 沼地 (numachi) or 湿地 (shitchi) for "marsh land" or "wetland"

Parts:

wā - depression / hollow / pit / low-lying / low-lying area / sunken / swamp

dì(de) - earth / land / soil / ground / region / territory / place / field / district / location / site / position / situation / (Cantonese) (suffix) plurality marker for pronouns, less used than alternative 咁 / -ly / used after an adjective to form an adverbial phrase / structural particle: used before a verb or adjective, linking it to preceding modifying adverbial adjunct

*Note 2: the simplified Chinese version of the first character (洼) is also a traditional Chinese variant. 凹 is a variant of the first character as well as a separate character. One other variant of the first character is 窪. A variant of the second character is 墜

蔬菜

March 19, 2015

Japanese Romaji: sosai

Japanese Meaning: vegetables / greens / (garden) truck

Parts:

so - greens / vegetables

sai(na) - greens / vegetables / side dish / rapeseed

Chinese Pinyin: shūcài

Chinese Meaning: vegetables / greens / produce

Parts:

shū - greens / vegetables

cài - greens / vegetables / cuisine / dish (type of food) / food / order / course / food eaten with rice or alcoholic drinks

春耕

March 20, 2015

Japanese Romaji: shunkou

Japanese Meaning: spring plowing / spring ploughing

Parts:

shun(haru) - spring (season) / springtime / New Year / prime (of one's life, etc.) / adolescence / puberty / sexuality

kou(tagaya) - cultivate / to plow / to till

Chinese Pinyin: chūngēng

Chinese Meaning: spring plowing / spring ploughing / to plow a field in the spring / spring cultivation

Parts:

chūn - spring (season) / springtime / joyful / gay / vitality / alive / living / life / youth / youthful / love / sensuality / lust / lustful / lewd / wanton / wine (especially in the Tang dynasty)

gēng - cultivate / to plow / to till / work laboriously / bent on

*Note: two variants of the first character are 春 and 椿. A variant of the second character is 耕

燻蒸/熏

March 21, 2015

Japanese Romaji1: kunjou

Japanese Meaning: fumigation / smoking (out)

Parts:

kun(ibu, kusu, kusubu, kuyu, fusu, fusubu) - fume / oxidize / smoulder

jou(mu, sei) - steam / sultry / heat / get musty / foment

Japanese Romaji2: kunjou

Japanese Meaning: fumigation / smoking (out)

Parts:

kun(ibu) - smoke / fog / vapor / vapour / cure (meat, etc.) with smoke

jou(mu, sei) - steam / sultry / heat / get musty / foment

Chinese Pinyin: xūnzhēng

Chinese Meaning: to fumigate

Parts:

xūn - to smoke / to fumigate / to assail the nostrils / to perfume / scent with smell / smoke / fog / vapor / vapour / cure (meat, etc.) with smoke

zhēng - to evaporate / (of cooking) to steam / cook by steaming / steamed / (archaism) torch made from hemp stalks or bamboo / (archaism) finely chopped firewood

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word can also be written as 薫蒸, 熏蒸, or くん蒸. In traditional Chinese, this word can also be written as 薰蒸.

*Note 2: 熏 is (1) the simplified Chinese version of two characters (燻, 薰=薰 [not applicable to the "fragrant herb" meaning]), (2) a variant that is sometimes interchangeable with the other two versions, (3) a separate traditional Chinese character, (4) has one other traditional Chinese variant 𤇗 (xūn). For this project, I am counting these versions as four characters.

*Note 3: a variant of the second character is 烝

紐帶/帶

March 22, 2015

Japanese Romaji: chuutai

Japanese Meaning: bond / ties / important connection / important social foundation / close relation / tight relationship / intimate relation / close link

Parts:

chuu(himo, juu) - string / cord / ribbon / braid / lace / strap / tape / man who is financially dependent on a woman

tai(o, obi) - belt / strap / sash / obi (kimono sash) / zone / region / paper wrapper on books, CDs, etc. / band (e.g. conduction, valence) / belt (e.g. Van-Allen, asteroid, etc.)

Chinese Pinyin: niǚdài

Chinese Meaning: tie / link / bond

Parts:

niǚ - button / bond / tie / to turn / to wrench / knot / handle / knob / pivot / nu (Greek letter Nu)

dài - belt / strap / band / girdle / ribbon / tape / tyre / tire / area / zone / region / to wear / to carry / to take along / to bring / to bear (i.e. to have) / with / contain / to lead / to head / to look after / to raise

欣喜

March 23, 2015

Japanese Romaji: kinki

Japanese Meaning: pleasure / joy / delight / gladness / rejoice

Parts:

kin(yoroko, gon) - rejoice / take pleasure in

ki(yoroko) - rejoice / take pleasure in

Chinese Pinyin: xīnxǐ

Chinese Meaning: happy / joyful / delight / glad / pleased / gleeful / jubilant

Parts:

xīn - happy / joyous / delighted / glad / joyful

xǐ - like / love / to be fond of / liking / to enjoy / be keen on / to be happy / to feel pleased / happiness / joyful / delightful / pleasant / pleasure / delight / glad / joyful thing / happy event / worth celebrating / pregnancy

*Note: 3 variants of the first character are 欣, 愜, 訢. 2 variants of the second character are 喜 and 禧.
The second character also has some non-standard forms: 𪛗, 𪛘 (double happiness).

嬉戲/戲

March 24, 2015

Japanese Romaji: kigi

Japanese Meaning: frolicking / frisking

Parts:

ki(ure) - glad / pleased / rejoice

gi(za, ja, tawamu, ge) - frolic / play / sport

Chinese Pinyin: xīxì

Chinese Meaning: to frolic / to play / to sport / to have fun / to make merry / to gambol / to romp

Parts:

xī - amusement / enjoy / play / amuse oneself / to sport / frolic / have fun / rollick

xì - to play / have fun / to sport / enjoy oneself / a trick / tease / jest / play a joke on / theatrical play / theatre / theater / drama / a show / movie / opera

*Note: another variant of the second character is 戲.

頒布

March 25, 2015

Japanese Romaji: hanpu

Japanese Meaning: distribution

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 分發 (fēnfā)

Parts:

han - disseminate / distribute / partition / understand

pu(shi, nuno, no, fu, bu) - cloth / linen / unit of measurement for cloth breadth (30-38 cm) / bujian (spade-shaped bronze coin of ancient China)

Chinese Pinyin: bānbù

Chinese Meaning: promulgation / to issue, proclaim, promulgate, publish, or enact (laws, regulations, decrees, orders, etc.)

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 発布する (happu suru) or 公布する (koufu suru)

Parts:

bān - to promulgate / to send out / to issue / to publish / to grant / to confer / to award / to bestow

bù - (cotton) cloth / textiles / linen / to declare / to announce / proclaim / to spread / to make known / display / distribute / disseminate / spread out

*Note: a variant of the first character is 頒. The second character is also the simplified Chinese form and a variant of 佈.

天秤

March 26, 2015

Japanese Romaji: tenbin

Japanese Meaning: (a pair of) scales / a balance / a beam (of a balance) / steelyard / (abbreviation) shoulder carrying pole / (abbreviation) Libra (zodiac sign) / to weigh (figuratively, to compare)

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 平衡 (pínghéng) for “equilibrium” (balance); 秤 (chèng) or 桿秤 (gǎnchèng) for “steelyard”; 擔杖 (dànzhàng / dānzhàng) for “shoulder carrying pole”; 比較 (bǐjiào) for “to compare”

Parts:

ten(ama, ame) - heaven / sky

bin(hakari, bakari, hyou, shou) - balances / scales / weighing machine / steelyard

*Note 1: in Japanese, this term also refers to the “thread take-up lever” in sewing machines, and a type of sinker used in fishing.

Chinese Pinyin: tiānchèng / tiānpíng

Chinese Meaning: scales (to weigh things) / balance / Libra (zodiac sign)

Parts:

tiān - day / heaven / sky / celestial / god / godly / top of one's head / nature / natural

chèng(píng) - steelyard / balance / weighing scales / Roman balance / weigh with a scale, etc. / Libra

*Note 2: in Chinese, “scales” are more commonly known as 天平 (tiānpíng).

*Note 3: 2 variants of the first character are 天 and 𠀤. A variant of the second character is 稱 (which is also a separate traditional Chinese character and version of 称).

篤学/學

March 27, 2015

Japanese Romaji: tokugaku

Japanese Meaning: love of learning / devotion to one's studies / studious

Parts:

toku(atsu) - cordial / kind / fervent / deliberate / serious

gaku(mana) - learning / learn / study / education / school / scholarship / erudition / science / knowledge
/ (suffix) study of

Chinese Pinyin: dǔxué

Chinese Meaning: studious / diligent in study / to study diligently / be devoted to study

Parts:

dǔ - sincere / earnest / devoted / genuine / true / deep / serious (illness) / critical / (Cantonese) to poke,
to prod, to stab / (Cantonese) end, rear, bottom, extremity / (Cantonese) counter for excretions

xué - learning / to learn / to study / imitate / to copy / school / college / academy / knowledge /
erudition / science / subject / discipline / branch of learning / (suffix) study of / -ology / (Cantonese)

relate / report speech / (Cantonese) like / similar to

*Note 1: a variant of the first character is 竺 (which is also a separate character). 2 more variants of the second character are 孥 and 數.

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

草鞋

March 28, 2015

Japanese Romaji: waraji

Japanese Meaning: straw sandals

Parts:

sou(kusa, gusa) - grass / pasture / weeds / herbs / thatch / (prefix) not genuine, substandard / (archaism) ninja / (abbreviation) draft (of a document), rough copy / write / cursive script / "grass" kanji
kutsu(ai, kai) - straw sandals / shoes / shoe / footwear

*Note 1: in Japanese, 草臥れる (to get tired) is read as "kutabireru"

Chinese Pinyin: cǎoxié

Chinese Meaning: straw sandals

Parts:

cǎo - grass / pasture / weeds / herbs / straw / thatch / any such green, leafy plant without any bark (plants, not trees) / manuscript / draft (of a document) / careless / coarse / crude / rough / the script type of Chinese calligraphy
xié - shoes / shoe / footwear in general

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 艸. A variant of the second character is 鞣

*Note 3: the first character has an alternate reading in Chinese (cào), which is a swear word.

徐歩/歩

March 29, 2015

Japanese Romaji: joho

Japanese Meaning: walking slowly

Parts:

jo(omomuro, omomu) - deliberately / gently / gradually / slowly

ho(ayu, aru, fu, bu, po) - walk / a step / pace / stride / counter for steps / pawn (in chess or shogi) / unit of land measurement / 3.95 square yards / 3.31 square metres (meters)

Chinese Pinyin: xúbù

Chinese Meaning: to stroll / to walk slowly / to walk in a leisurely manner

Parts:

xú - slowly / gently / gradually / quietly / calmly / composed / dignified

bù - walk / step / pace / stride / stroll / on foot / march / stages in a process / situation / state / degree / banks of rivers, ponds, etc. / fortune / doom / counter for steps / a unit in length in ancient China of about 5.5 feet

*Note: a variant of the second character is 走

享有

March 30, 2015

Japanese Romaji: kyouyuu

Japanese Meaning: possession / enjoyment (of rights, privileges, etc.) (see note 1)

Parts:

kyou(u) - get / catch / receive / undergo / take / answer (phone)

yuu(a, u) - to have / having / to own / possess / possession / belonging / exist / existence / get to exist / happen / occur / appear / keep / maintain / (abbreviation) limited company / approximate / bhava (becoming, existence)

Chinese Pinyin: xiǎngyǒu

Chinese Meaning: to enjoy (rights, privileges, prestige, etc.) / to possess / to have in possession / to enjoy having something (see note 1)

Parts:

xiǎng - to enjoy / to benefit / to have the use of / indulge in / share / have the benefit of

yǒu(yòu) - to have / to own / to possess / to exist / to be / there is / there are / to be present / some / (archaic) again / (archaic) and, with a remainder of (when dividing an integer by ten)

*Note 1: this term is specifically used in the context of the inherent qualities something or someone possesses (such as abilities, privileges, rights, reputation, etc.)

*Note 2: do not confuse the first character with 亨

*Note 3: a variant of the first character is 亨

邀撃/撃

March 31, 2015

Japanese Romaji: yougeki

Japanese Meaning: ambush / assault

Parts:

you(muka) - call / go to meet

geki(u) - to attack / to beat / to conquer / to defeat

Chinese Pinyin: yāojī

Chinese Meaning: to intercept and attack / to waylay and attack / to ambush

Parts:

yāo - to invite / to request / to call / to welcome / to meet / to intercept / to waylay / to ambush / to solicit / to seek

jī(jí) - to hit / to strike / to beat / to break / to attack / to fight / bump into

拓本

April 1, 2015

Japanese Romaji: takuhon

Japanese Meaning: a rubbed copy of / an ink rubbing / folio of rubbings

Parts:

taku(hira) - open / break up (land) / clear (the land)

hon(bon, pon, moto) - root / origin / source / base / basis / foundation / cause / ingredient / material / original cost (or capital, principal, etc.) / (plant) root / (tree) trunk / first section of a waka / handle (chopsticks, brush, etc.) / a grip / book / volume / script / scenario / main / the head of / this / our / the present / real / current / counter for long cylindrical things (glasses of drinks, pairs of jeans, etc.) / counter for films, TV shows, etc. / counter for goals, home runs, etc. / counter for blades of grass, tree trunks, etc., and for falcons (in falconry)

Chinese Pinyin: tàběn

Chinese Meaning: rubbing of inscription / a stone rubbing, especially of an ancient inscription / a book of rubbings

Parts:

tà(tuò) - make rubbings from inscriptions, pictures, etc. on stone tablets or bronze vessels / to expand / to develop / to open up / to push something with the hand / to support

běn - root / origin / source / this / basis / foundation / based on / according to / on the authority of / originally / at first / original / inherent / intrinsic / current / present / this / my / our / copy / book / edition / script / capital / principal / cost / roots or stems of plants / counter for books, periodicals, files, etc.

*Note: two variants of the second character are 本 and 柁

秘訣

April 2, 2015

Japanese Romaji: hiketsu

Japanese Meaning: the secret (of) / a key (e.g. to success) / formula / recipe / secret trick / mysteries (of an art, trade, etc.) (see note 1)

Parts:

hi(hiso) - secret / conceal / hide

ketsu - secret / separation / to part

Chinese Pinyin: mìjué

Chinese Meaning: secret know-how / secret method / secrets (of success, happiness, longevity, etc.) / the key (to the solution of a problem) / recipe (for success) / formula / a knack / trade secret / trick / tips / tricks of the trade (see note 1)

Parts:

mì(bì) - secret / mysterious / abstruse / rare / secretary / constipated / blocked / (abbreviation) Peru

jué - farewell / take leave of / bid farewell / to part / separate / rhymed instruction / formula / secrets (of an art) / knack / trick / tips / key

*Note 1: this word is used in the context of “the best way to do something”, i.e., the “secret” to doing or achieving something.

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 祕

眺望

April 3, 2015

Japanese Romaji: choubou

Japanese Meaning: a prospect / outlook / a view / scenery / panorama

Parts:

chou(naga) - look at / stare / to watch / see / scrutinize

bou(nozo, mochi, mou) - ambition / aspire to / desire / expect / hope / full moon / 15th day of the lunar month

Chinese Pinyin: tiàowàng

Chinese Meaning: to survey the scene from an elevated position / to look far away / view / to scan from afar / to look off into the distance from a high place / to overlook

Parts:

tiào - to look (into the distance from a high place) / to gaze into the distance / look at / gaze at / to scan / to survey

wàng - to hope / to expect / await / to visit / view / watch / to look forward to / to gaze at (into the distance) / look at / to look towards / glance / towards / reputation / prestige / call on / pay a visit / full moon / 15th day of a lunar month

*Note 1: a variant of the second character is 望

*Note 2: the second character can be written in either way in both languages. There are also more with slight variations, but I am only including these two.

*Note 3: the picture is of Amanohashidate (天橋立) in Kyoto.

蟻族

April 4, 2015

Japanese Romaji: arizoku

Japanese Meaning: ant tribe, college or university graduates who have failed to find a high-paying job and who endure cramped living conditions

Parts:

ari(gi) - ant

zoku(yakara) - family / tribe / clan / band / fellow / group (of the periodic table) / party (of people) / set (of people)

Chinese Pinyin: yǐzú

Chinese Meaning: ant tribe, college or university graduates who have failed to find a high-paying job and who endure cramped living conditions

Parts:

yǐ - ant

zú - family / race (of people) / nationality / ethnicity / ethnic group / clan / tribe / social group / class or group of things with common features

*Note: a variant of the first character is 蟻

煥發/發

April 5, 2015

Japanese Romaji: kanpatsu

Japanese Meaning: brilliance (see note 1)

Parts:

kan - shine

patsu(ta, hatsu, hotsu) - departure / departing / beginning / start from / set off / disclose / issued by (e.g. document) / sending / sent / publish / discharge / emit / occur / (abbreviation) engine / counter for gunshots, bullets, aerial fireworks, bursts of gas, bombs, blows (punches), etc.

Chinese Pinyin: huànfā

Chinese Meaning: brilliant and luminous / scintillating / shining / radiant / vivacious / glowing / to shine / to glow / to irradiate / to flash / coruscate (see note 1)

Parts:

huàn - shining / glowing / brilliant / vigorous / lustrous

fā - to send out / to show (one's feelings) / to issue / publish / dispatch / emit / to develop / shoot / launch / begin / start / initiate / originate / reveal / disclose / uncover / become / come to be / utter / express / speak / set off / set out / illuminate / help out / counter for gunshots (rounds)

*Note 1: this word is usually used to metaphorically describe something as “brilliant” or “shining”, not literally shining (e.g. to brilliantly display one's talents, a glowing face, in high spirits, etc.)

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 煥

手巾

April 6, 2015

Japanese Romaji: shukin

Japanese Meaning: (hand) towel / handkerchief

Parts:

shu(ta, te, de, zu) - hand / arm / forepaw / foreleg / handle / worker / help / trouble / care / effort / means / way / trick / a move / a play / technique / workmanship / handwriting / a kind / a type / a sort / one's hands / one's possession / ability to cope / hand (of cards) / direction

kin(gin, haba, beki, chikiri) - cloth / towel / napkin / width / breadth / hanging scroll / cloth radical / a power (math)

*Note 1: the reading of 上手い (which has several meanings such as “skillful”, “fortunate”, “delicious”, etc.) is “umai”. (Not to be confused with 上手 (skillful), which is usually read as “jouzu”). 脛巾 (leggings) is read as “habaki”.

Chinese Pinyin: shǒujīn

Chinese Meaning: (hand) towel / handkerchief / washcloth

Parts:

shǒu - hand / (formal) to hold / to have in one's hand / convenient / handy / portable / handwritten / personally / skill / skilled person / proficiency / person engaged in certain types of work / person skilled in certain types of work / verb measure for skill or proficiency / noun measure used in firsthand, secondhand, etc. and also for smallest tradable unit (of stocks)

jīn - towel / napkin / handkerchief / general purpose cloth / kerchief / turban / headgear / articles for dressing the hair / (archaism) women's headcovering / cloth radical

*Note 2: in Japanese, more common terms are 手拭い (tenugui) for “hand towel”; ハンカチ (hankachi) for “handkerchief”; 手拭き (tefuki) for both; タオル (taoru) for “towel”. In Chinese, “handkerchief” can also be called 手絹 (shǒujuàn) or 手帕 (shǒupà).

*Note 3: a variant of the first character is 𢵚

瘤牛

April 7, 2015

Japanese Romaji: kobuushi

Japanese Meaning: zebu

Parts:

kobu(ryuu) - lump or bump in the skin / protuberance / swelling / knot in a tree / someone in the way / a child

ushi(gyuu) - cow / bull / ox / oxen / cattle / beef

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as コブウシ.

*Note 2: in Japanese, 蝸牛 (snail) has the readings “katatsumuri” or “kagyuu”

Chinese Pinyin: liúniú

Chinese Meaning: zebu

Parts:

liú - tumor / lump / bump / goiter / swelling

niú - cow / bull / ox / cattle / stubborn / headstrong (person) / arrogant / (slang) (expletive) awesome

*Note 3: a variant of the first character is 瘤

雅馴

April 8, 2015

Japanese Romaji: gajun

Japanese Meaning: refined (prose, writing, etc.)

Parts:

ga(miyabi) - elegant / elegance / grace / graceful / gracious / refined / refinement / festal song (genre of the Shi Jing)

jun(na, nare) - experienced / tamed / get used to

Chinese Pinyin: yǎxùn

Chinese Meaning: refined (of writing) / polished / elegant (said of writing or remarks)

Parts:

yǎ - elegant / graceful / refined / polished / sophisticated / not common / not vulgar / usually / often / frequently / much / friendship / acquaintance / wine vessel / your (polite) / the name of an ancient musical instrument

xùn(xún) - tame / mild / docile / obedient / well-bred / to attain gradually / gradual / to tame / put under control / break (an animal)

*Note: a variant of the first character is 𪛗

綴字

April 9, 2015

Japanese Romaji: teiji / tetsuji / setsuji

Japanese Meaning: spelling

Parts:

tei(tsudzuri, tsudzu, to, toji, tetsu, setsu) - compose / spell / spelling / write / orthography / bind (books) / patching / binding

ji(aza, azana, na) - character (i.e. kanji) / letter / word / handwriting / penmanship / the ... word / section of a village / Chinese courtesy name (name formerly given to adult Chinese men, used in place of their given name in formal situations) / nickname

Chinese Pinyin: zhuìzì

Chinese Meaning: to spell / to compose words

Parts:

zhuì(chuò) - to sew / to stitch together / to combine / patch together / to mend / to link / to connect / to put words together / to compose / to embellish / decorate / stud

zì - character (i.e. hanzi) / letter / word / symbol / logograph / glyph / style of handwriting / printing type / courtesy or style name traditionally given to males aged 20 in dynastic China / betroth a girl / Chinese character with more than one component / (Cantonese) five minutes (on the clock)

*Note: a variant of the first character is 綴. The first character is a variant of 輟 (chuò)

画舫/畫

April 10, 2015

Japanese Romaji: gabou

Japanese Meaning: exquisitely decorated pleasure boat

Parts:

ga(ega, e, kaku) - picture / drawing / painting / sketch / draw / brush-stroke / counter for strokes (of a kanji, etc.)

bou(moya) - berth / moor

Chinese Pinyin: huàfǎng

Chinese Meaning: exquisitely decorated pleasure boat

Parts:

huà - draw / paint / sketch / write / painting / picture / drawing / delineate / delimit / to mark / plan / design / brush-stroke / stroke of a Chinese character / counter for paintings / something decorated with paintings or pictures

fǎng - fancy boat / large boat / yacht / 2 boats lashed together

*Note 1: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 2: another variant of the first character is 畫 The Chinese version of the first character is a variant of 劃

叢生

April 11, 2015

Japanese Romaji: sousei

Japanese Meaning: dense growth / healthy growth

Parts:

sou(kusamura, mura) - clump of bushes / grassy place / plexus / thicket / jungle / the bush

sei(i, u, uma, o, ki, na, nama, ha, mu, shou, jou, fu) - life / living / birth / genuine / pure / undiluted / raw / uncooked / rare / fresh / natural / unedited / unprocessed / crude / live (not recorded) / inexperienced / unpolished / green / student / unpasteurized (beer) / draft (beer) / draught beer / partially / somewhat / half- / semi- / impudence / sauciness / (colloquialism) unprotected (i.e. not wearing a condom) / area of thick growth (trees, etc.) / (male term) (humble) I, me, myself

*Note 1: the second character has the most readings out of any other character in Japanese.

Chinese Pinyin: cóngshēng

Chinese Meaning: growing as a thicket / overgrown / lush growth / dense growth / breaking out everywhere (of disease, social disorder, etc.)

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 発生 (toppatsu) for “break out (of disease, disorder, etc.)”

Parts:

cóng - thicket / bush / shrub / cluster / overgrow / clump / collection / collection of books / series / a set
shēng - live / life / living / lifetime / livelihood / alive / lively / to be born / come into being / come into existence / birth / to grow / breed / bear (something) / give birth / produce / beget / create / give rise to / cause / raw / uncooked / unripe / crude / unskilled / stiff / unfamiliar / strange / unknown / unacquainted / save / untamed / barbarian / uncultured / pupil / student / scholar / practitioner / gentleman / creatures / male role in traditional Chinese opera / Mr. / mister

*Note 2: two variants of the first character are 叢 and 藁

饅頭

April 12, 2015

Japanese Romaji: manjuu / mantou

Japanese Meaning: (Japanese) manjū (steamed yeast bun with filling, especially bean jam) / (Chinese) mantou (steamed roll / steamed bun / steamed bread with no filling)

Parts:

man - manjuu / manjū / bean-jam dumpling

juu(atama, kashira, gashira, kaburi, koube, tou, zu) - head / mind / brain / intellect / top / hair (on one's head) / boss / leader / top structural component of a kanji / counter for large animals (e.g. head of cattle, horses, etc.) / (after a noun) top of ... / head of ... / (after the -masu stem of a verb) the moment that ..

Chinese Pinyin: mántou

Chinese Meaning: (Chinese) mantou (steamed roll / steamed bun / steamed bread with no filling) / (Japanese) manjū (steamed yeast bun with filling, especially bean jam)

Parts:

mán - steamed bread / steamed dumplings

tou(tóu) - head / hairstyle / hair / the top / first / start / end / two ends of something / beginning or end / a stub / remnant / chief / boss / leader (of a group) / side / party / aspect / leading / counter for large animals / counter for certain domestic animals (pigs, livestock, etc.) / suffix for certain objects, location words, and adjectives (to form a noun)

朋党/黨

April 13, 2015

Japanese Romaji: houtou

Japanese Meaning: faction / clique

Parts:

hou(tomo) - friend / companion / pal / comrade

tou - party (political) / clique / faction / -ite

Chinese Pinyin: péngdǎng

Chinese Meaning: faction / clique

Parts:

péng - friend / pal / acquaintance / group / clique

dǎng - party (political) / association / club / society / gang / faction / clique / be partial to / take sides /

kinsfolk / relative

*Note: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

壟斷/斷

April 14, 2015

Japanese Romaji: roudan

Japanese Meaning: monopoly

Parts:

rou(oka) - mound / hill / height / knoll / rising ground / grave / rice field dike

dan(kotowa, ta) - decision / judgment / judgement / resolution / dismiss / decline / prohibit / refuse / severance / cutting / warn / apologize

Chinese Pinyin: lǒngduàn

Chinese Meaning: to enjoy market dominance / to monopolize / a monopoly / to corner

Parts:

lǒng - ridge between fields / ridge in field / field path / ridge-shaped object / row of crops / grave / mound

duàn - to break / to snap / to cut off / sever / interrupt / to stop / to give up / to abstain from something / to quit / to judge / decide / determine / (negative) absolutely, definitely, decidedly

*Note 1: more common synonyms for “monopoly” include 独り占め / 一人占め (J: hitorijime), 独占 (J: dokusen), 專売 (J: senbai), 專有 (J: sen'yuu), 丸取り (J: marudori), 獨佔 (C: dúzhàn), 專賣 (C: zhuānmài).

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

分娩

April 15, 2015

Japanese Romaji: bunben

Japanese Meaning: childbirth / delivery / confinement

Parts:

bun(wa, fun, pun, bu) - minute / one-tenth / one percent (one-tenth of a wari) / chances / part / segment / a share / ration / rate / degree / one's lot / one's status / relation / duty / kind / lot / in proportion to / just as much as / thickness / advantageous circumstances / know / understand / 3 mm (one-tenth of a sun) / 2.4 mm (one-tenth of a mon, a traditional unit used to measure shoe sizes) / 0.375 grams (one-tenth of a monme) / 0.1 degree (one-tenth of a do, used to measure body temperature on any temperature scale) / one-quarter of a ryou (obsolete unit of currency)

ben - to bear (children)

Chinese Pinyin: fēnmiǎn

Chinese Meaning: childbirth / to give birth / to lie in / labor / labour / parturition / delivery

Parts:

fēn(fèn) - minute / one-tenth / one percent / one cent / to divide / to separate / to allocate / distribute / assign / allot / to distinguish (between good and bad) / differentiate / tell apart / part / subdivision / fraction / percentage / a point (in sports or games) / mark / score / share / ingredient / component / located separately / branch / one point / unit of length (centimeter), area, weight, money (one cent), interest rate, time (one minute), etc. / unit to express fractions and percentages / unit of length equivalent to 0.33 cm / 0.01 yuan (unit of money)

miǎn(wǎn) - to give birth to a child / be delivered of a child / complaisant / agreeable / meek / docile

*Note: a Chinese variant of the first character is 份

艱難/難

April 16, 2015

Japanese Romaji: kan'nan

Japanese Meaning: hardships / difficulties / privations / trials / tribulations

Parts:

kan - be distressed / difficult / mourning / perilous / trying / parent's funeral ceremony

nan(kata, gata, niku, muzuka) - difficulty / difficult / hard / hardship / impossible / defect / trouble / accident

*Note 1: The casual Japanese word for "Thank you" (arigatou ありがとう) can be written in kanji as 有り難う or 有難う. 有難い/有り難い(arigatai) means "thankful" or "grateful". In Chinese, 有難(yǒunán) can mean "to be having difficulties" or "to be in trouble".

Chinese Pinyin: jiānnán

Chinese Meaning: difficult / hard / challenging / difficulty / distress / hardship

Parts:

jiān - difficult / hard / hardship / trying / distressing / mourning for one's parents

nán(nàn) - difficult / difficulty / arduous / hard / not easy / unable / not in a position to / problem / trouble / unpleasant / not good / disaster / distress / calamity / misfortune / enemy / to scold / rebuke / reprove / reprimand / reject / (type of bird) / flourishing / rich / exorcise (e.g. illness or demon)

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 𪛗

膠着/著
April 17, 2015

Japanese Romaji: kouchaku

Japanese Meaning: agglutination / adhesion / deadlock / stalemate / standstill

Parts:

kou(nikawa, nibe) - glue / isinglass

chaku(ki, gi, tsu, jaku) - to wear / to don / clothes / outfit / uniform / arrive at / counter for suits of clothing

Chinese Pinyin: jiāozhuó

Chinese Meaning: to agglutinate / to stick onto / stalemate / standstill / gridlock

Parts:

jiāo - glue / to glue / gum / adhesive / resin / sticky / gluey / gummy / stick with glue / adhere / rubber / plastic

zhuó(zhāo, zháo, zhe) - to wear (clothes) / put on / be dressed in / clothing / to contact / attach / to use / to apply / set about / dispatch / send / assign / to touch / to come in contact with / to feel / to be affected by / be troubled with / to catch fire / to burn / to combust / be ignited / be lit / (Cantonese) to turn on (a light) / (colloquial) to fall asleep / (chess) move / take action / trick / step / device / all right! / (dialect) to add / (after a verb) to hit the mark / succeed in doing something / aspect particle indicating action in progress / particle used after some adjectives to denote comparison of levels / particle denoting a command, request or advice / (Beijing Mandarin) Particle used after verbs to denote the severity of the event / (Cantonese) one by one / (Cantonese) catch, receive, suffer

*Note 1: I am treating 着 and 著 as two characters for this project. For the Chinese version of 著, aside from the “zhù” reading, the simplified/alternate version is 着. 着 is used in Japanese often (and written slightly differently than in traditional Chinese) and doesn’t usually relate to the Japanese version of 著. The Japanese version of 着 can mean “to wear” or “to arrive”. Hong Kong also differentiates between 着 and 著.

*Note 2: another variant of the second character is 著

宛然

April 18, 2015

Japanese Romaji: enzen

Japanese Meaning: as if / the very thing itself / just like

Parts:

en(ate, a, ataka, adaka, sanaga, zutsu, dzutsu) - just like / fortunately / an address (e.g. mailing) / addressed to / per

zen(sa, shika, nen) - if so / in that case / so / well / sort of thing / -like / yeah / uh-huh

Chinese Pinyin: wǎnrán

Chinese Meaning: as if / as though / just like

Parts:

wǎn - seem / seemingly / as if / as though / crooked / winding / tortuous / meandering

rán - correct / right / yes / (most) certainly / so / thus / like this / -ly / pledge / promise / permission / however / but / still / nevertheless / on the other hand / really / if so

*Note 1: this word is used to metaphorically describe something as like something else.

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 狀

媚態

April 19, 2015

Japanese Romaji: bitai

Japanese Meaning: coquetry / flirting / flirtatious behaviour

Parts:

bi(ko, kobi) - flirt / flatter / to humor / flattery / cajolery / flirtation

tai(waza, tei, dai, zama, nari) - appearance / attitude / air / condition / state / form / figure / style / way / shape / manner / voice (of verbs) / diathesis / sorry state / plight / sad sight / a mess

Chinese Pinyin: mèitài

Chinese Meaning: coquetry / seductive appearance or gestures of a girl / fawning manner / obsequiousness

Parts:

mèi - to flatter / to charm / charming / attractive / enchanting / fascinating / fawn on / curry favour with / sycophantic / obsequious / sycophancy

tài - attitude / manner / bearing / carriage / position / appearance / form / shape / state / deportment / situation / condition / circumstances / posture / state of matter (physics) / (grammar) voice

函数/數

April 20, 2015

Japanese Romaji: kansuu

Japanese Meaning: function (e.g. math, programming, programing)

Parts:

kan(hako, bako) - box (archaic) / case / chest / package / pack / car (of a train, etc.) / shamisen case / shamisen / (Colloquialism) public building, community building / (archaism) man who carries a geisha's shamisen / (archaism) receptacle for human waste, feces (faeces) / counter for boxes (or boxed objects)
suu(kazu, kazo, su, shiba, shibashiba) - number / amount / several / a number of / numeral / figures / strength / destiny / fate / law / often / again and again / frequently

*Note 1: in Japanese, this is more commonly written as 関数.

Chinese Pinyin: hánshù

Chinese Meaning: function (math)

Parts:

hán - a case / a box / casket / envelope / correspondence / letter / mail
shù(shǔ, shuò) - to count / to enumerate / to list / to criticize (i.e. enumerate shortcomings) / be reckoned as / be counted as / number / scold / rebuke / figure / digit / several / a few / some / count / fate / destiny / rule of nature / frequently / repeatedly

*Note 2: 2 variants of the first character are 函 and 函

*Note 3: the Japanese version of the second character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

聡敏/聰敏

April 21, 2015

Japanese Romaji: soubin

Japanese Meaning: sagacity / cleverness

Parts:

sou(sato, zato) - fast learner / wise

bin(sato, zato) - agile / alert / cleverness

Chinese Pinyin: cōngmǐn

Chinese Meaning: quick / bright / intelligent / clever / brilliant

Parts:

cōng - quick at hearing / wise / clever / sharp-witted / intelligent / bright / acute / astute / quick of apprehension

mǐn - quick / fast / nimble / agile / swift / clever / smart / intelligent / wise

*Note 1: 聡明 (J: soumei) and 聰明 (C: cōngming) mean roughly the same thing as this word.

*Note 2: another variant of the first character is 聰. Another variant of the second character is 敏

擱筆

April 22, 2015

Japanese Romaji: kakuhitsu

Japanese Meaning: stopping writing

Parts:

kaku(o) - lay down / put down

hitsu(fude, pitsu) - writing brush / painting brush / handwriting / writing / a pen / a thing written by a certain person / calligraphy

Chinese Pinyin: gēbǐ

Chinese Meaning: to put down the pen / to lay down the pen / to stop writing

Parts:

gē(gé) - to place / to put aside / to shelve / to lay down / lay aside / to leave over / delay / to bear / to stand / to endure

bǐ - pen / pencil / writing brush / to write or compose / handwriting / writing / stroke / the strokes of Chinese characters / technique of writing, calligraphy, drawing or painting / counter for sums of money (debt, etc.) / counter for deals (business transactions, etc.)

*Note: The second character usually describes any writing utensil in Chinese, but in Japanese usually specifies a writing brush.

血栓

April 23, 2015

Japanese Romaji: kessen

Japanese Meaning: blood clot / thrombus

Parts:

ketsu(chi, dji) - blood / consanguinity

sen - cork / plug / stopper / bung / stopcock / bolt

Chinese Pinyin: xuèshuān

Chinese Meaning: blood clot / thrombosis

Parts:

xuè(xiě) - blood / blood relationship / related by blood / consanguinity / energetic and high-spirited

shuān - cork / bottle stopper / bolt / plug / wooden pin / wooden peg, post, or stick

間歇

April 24, 2015

Japanese Romaji: kanketsu

Japanese Meaning: intermittence / intermittent

Parts:

kan(ai, aida, ma, ken) - interval / period of time / space (between) / among / between / during / inter- / gap / distance / room / time (between) / pause / break / span (temporal or spatial) / stretch / period (while) / relationship (between, among) / members (within, among) / (archaism) due to, because of / 1.818 m (6 shaku) / counter used to number the gaps between pillars
ketsu - exhausted / out of

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as 間欠

Chinese Pinyin: jiànxīe

Chinese Meaning: intermittent / intermittence / sporadic / intermittently / sporadically / to stop in the middle of something / short intervals or stops / a pause / intermission / blank / interim

Parts:

jiàn(jiān) - interval / space / between / among / relationship among / place / within a definite time or space / room / cubicle / workshop / gap / opening / break / to separate / alternate / partition / to thin out (seedlings) / to sow discontent / sow discord / drive a wedge / section of a room or lateral space between two pairs of pillars / counter for rooms, shops, houses, bedrooms, buildings, etc.
xiē - to rest / have a rest / take a break / to stop / to lodge / suspend (work) / knock off / little while / short time / go to bed / sleep / take a nap

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 閒

拿捕

April 25, 2015

Japanese Romaji: daho

Japanese Meaning: capture / seizure / military capture of a foreign vessel / making a prize of

Japanese to Chinese Translation: see note 2

Parts:

da - arrest / catch

ho(tsuka, to, tora) - capture / catch

*Note 1: in Japanese, this is also written as だ捕

Chinese Pinyin: nábǔ

Chinese Meaning: to capture / to detain / to apprehend

Parts:

ná - to hold in one's hand / to seize / to catch / to grasp / to apprehend / arrest / capture / to take / bring / with / to use / employ (a method, device, etc.) / to be confined or restrained / (interjection) there!, look!, here!, there it is! / (used in the same way as 把: to mark the following noun as a direct object)

bǔ - to catch / to seize / to capture / to arrest / apprehend / policeman

*Note 2: there are multiple ways to say "capture" depending on context. In Chinese, 捕獲 (bǔhuò) is a more common alternative which includes the context of capturing as a prize.

*Note 3: 2 variants of the first character are 拏 and 𢦏

赦免

April 26, 2015

Japanese Romaji: shamen

Japanese Meaning: remission / pardon / amnesty

Parts:

sha(yuru) - forgiveness / pardon

men(manuka, manuga) - dismissal / to excuse / being made to quit

Chinese Pinyin: shèmiǎn

Chinese Meaning: to remit / to pardon / to absolve / to exempt from punishment / give an amnesty

Parts:

shè - to pardon (a convict) / absolve / forgive / remit (a punishment)

miǎn - to excuse somebody / to exempt from / to spare from / to remove or dismiss from office / relieve / dispense with / to avoid / to avert / evade / to escape / to be prohibited / forbid / not allowed

演繹

April 27, 2015

Japanese Romaji: en'eki

Japanese Meaning: deductive reasoning / deduction

Parts:

en - act / performance / play / render / stage

eki - pull out

Chinese Pinyin: yǎnyì

Chinese Meaning: to deduce / to infer / deduction / illation / interpret / expound / develop / perform
(as in karaoke, movie, etc.) / narrate

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 派生 (hasei) for “derivation” as in “to expand” via a derivative work
[派生作品 J: haseisakuhin, C: pàishēngzuòpǐn; 演繹作品 C: yǎnyìzuòpǐn]; 演奏 (ensou) for “perform”
(via musical instrument or singing); 出演 (shutsuen) for “perform” (on TV, on stage, or in a movie, etc.);
敘事 (joji) for “narration”

Parts:

yǎn - to act / to play / to perform / be cast as / to put on / to exercise / to practice / practise / to drill / to
develop / to evolve / resolve into / expound / deduce / to elaborate

yì - to interpret / to explain / to unravel / sort out / infer / continuous / unceasing / uninterrupted /
(archaism) to draw silk, to unravel or unreel silk

趋向

April 28, 2015

Japanese Romaji: suukou

Japanese Meaning: tendency / trend / current

Parts:

suu(omomu, hashi) - go / quick / run / tend towards

kou(mu, muka, muko, nata) - approach / beyond / yonder / confront / defy / facing / tend toward

Chinese Pinyin: qūxiàng

Chinese Meaning: direction / trend / tendency / to incline to / to tend to

Parts:

qū - to hasten / to hurry / hurry along / to walk fast / pursue / to approach / to tend towards / incline to / to converge / be attracted to / drift toward

xiàng - towards / to face / to turn towards / trend / direction / inclination / tendency / from / against / to support / to side with / shortly before / until now / formerly / always / all along

*Note: the second character is also the simplified Chinese version of 嚮 (xiàng) and 嚮 (xiàng) (which are also traditional Chinese variants); the meanings are roughly the same.

樟腦/腦

April 29, 2015

Japanese Romaji: shounou

Japanese Meaning: camphor (C₁₀H₁₆O)

Parts:

shou(kusu, gusu, kusunoki) - camphor / camphor tree (Cinnamomum camphora) / camphorwood / camphor laurel

nou(nazuki) - brain / brains / mind / memory / (archaism) skull, head

Chinese Pinyin: zhāngnǎo

Chinese Meaning: camphor (C₁₀H₁₆O)

Parts:

zhāng - camphor / camphor tree / Cinnamomum camphora

nǎo - brain / mind / head / essence

*Note: another variant of the second character is 腦

真摯

April 30, 2015

Japanese Romaji: shinshi

Japanese Meaning: sincerity / earnestness

Parts:

shin(ma, makoto) - true / truth / reality / genuineness / genuine / real / seriousness / just / right / due (east) / pure / accurate / printed style writing / (abbreviation) star performer / Buddhist sect

shi - gift / seriousness

Chinese Pinyin: zhēnzhì

Chinese Meaning: sincere / sincerity / faithful / true / truly

Parts:

zhēn - really / truly / factual / indeed / real / true / genuine / actual / substantial / the highest sincerity one is capable of

zhì - sincere / earnest / warm / cordial / intimate

*Note: a variant of the first character is 眞

宏大

May 1, 2015

Japanese Romaji: koudai

Japanese Meaning: huge / very large / vast / extensive / magnificent / grand / immense

Parts:

kou(hiro) - large / wide

dai(oo, ta, tai) - big / large / huge / great / loud (volume) / senior / the large part of / (suffix)

approximate size / no larger than / (abbreviation) -university

*Note 1: In Japanese, 大人 (adult) is read as “otona”; 大蛇 (big snake) has the reading of “oroichi”; 大和 (an old name for Japan) is read as “Yamato”

Chinese Pinyin: hóngdà

Chinese Meaning: great / grand / massive / vast / immense / magnificent / ambitious

Parts:

hóng - great / grand / magnificent / wide / vast / spacious / macro (computing) / macro-

dà(dài) - big / large / huge / major / vast / wide / deep / great / high / very / highly / extremely / really / much / oldest / eldest / senior / adult / full-grown / your (politely) / before / after (referring to dates only) / make large / make great

*Note 2: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as 宏大 and alternatively as 弘大. In traditional Chinese, similar words include 弘大 (hóngdà) and 廣大 (guǎngdà).

*Note 3: this word is very general and can apply to any large physical things, or something conceptually large (e.g. big aspirations, widespread or extensive influence, grand scale, etc.)

*Note 4: a variant of the first character is 宏 (which is also a variant of 肱)

臟腑/臟

May 2, 2015

Japanese Romaji: zoufu

Japanese Meaning: entrails / intestines / guts / viscera / internal organs

Parts:

zou - bowels / entrails / viscera

fu(pu) - bowels / viscera / internal organ / gut

Chinese Pinyin: zàngfǔ

Chinese Meaning: viscera / entrails / inner organs

Parts:

zàng - internal organs / viscera (specifically heart, liver, spleen, lung, and kidney)

fǔ - internal organs / bowels / entrails / hollow organs of the body / viscera (specifically stomach, small intestine, large intestine, gall bladder, bladder, and “Triple Focus” (三焦))

*Note: in traditional Chinese medicine, the internal organs of the human body can be classified into the five viscera (heart, liver, spleen, lung, and kidney) and six bowels (stomach, small intestine, large intestine, gall bladder, bladder, and “Triple Focus” (三焦)). (Japanese: 五臟六腑 gozouroppu; Chinese: 五臟六腑 wǔzàngliùfǔ).

The five viscera are also related to the five Chinese elements of Fire, Water, Wood, Metal, and Earth.

Sources:

<http://www.acuhealing.com/tcmtheory/fiveelemnt.htm>

<http://www.acupuncture-and-chinese-medicine.com/five-viscera.html>

錯綜

May 3, 2015

Japanese Romaji: sakusou

Japanese Meaning: complication / intricacy / involution / complicated / entangled

Parts:

saku(shaku, kosuri) - confused / mix / be in disorder / rubbing / scrubbing / scraping

sou(aze) - rule / warp controller (on a loom)

Chinese Pinyin: cuòzōng

Chinese Meaning: intricate / complicated / tangled / involved / intermixed / confused / irregular / to synthesize

Parts:

cuò - error / blunder / mistake / wrong / mistaken / erroneous / fault / demerit / (used in the negative) bad / poor / interlocking / interlocked and jagged / strewn with / strewn around / complex / intricate / confused / to grind / to polish / to alternate / to stagger / to miss / to let slip / to evade / dodge / miss out / to inlay with gold or silver / polish jade / grindstone

zōng(zòng, zèng) - to sum up / to put together / overall / comprehensive / summarize / synthesize / heddle (device to form warp in weaving textiles) / arrange threads for weaving

肌膚

May 4, 2015

Japanese Romaji: kifu

Japanese Meaning: skin

Parts:

ki(hada, hadae) - skin / grain (e.g. of wood) / texture / surface / body (in the context of intimate bodily contact) / disposition / temperament / character / a type

fu(hada, hadae, pu) - skin / grain (e.g. of wood) / texture / surface / body (in the context of intimate bodily contact) / disposition / temperament / character / a type

Chinese Pinyin: jīfū

Chinese Meaning: skin / flesh

Parts:

jī - flesh / muscle tissue / meat on bones / tissue / skin / texture

fū - skin / surface / superficial / shallow / skin-deep / great (achievements, merit)

*Note 1: "skin" is more commonly known as 皮膚 (J: hifu; C: pífū)

*Note 2: in Chinese, this word also figuratively means "close physical relationship" or "intimate relations between two people"

防禦

May 5, 2015

Japanese Romaji: bougyo

Japanese Meaning: defense / defence / safeguard / protection

Parts:

bou(fuse) - defend / protect / resist / ward off

gyo(fuse) - defend / protect / resist / ward off

Chinese Pinyin: fángyù

Chinese Meaning: defense / to defend

Parts:

fáng - to protect / to guard (against) / to defend / to prevent / embankment

yù - to defend / to resist / keep out / guard against / hold out against / take precautions against

*Note: in Japanese, this word is more commonly written as 防御. In Chinese, 御 is the simplified version and a traditional variant (with other meanings) of 禦.

靈芝/靈

May 6, 2015

Japanese Romaji: reishi

Japanese Meaning: lingzhi or reishi mushroom (Ganoderma lucidum) (formerly Fomes japonicus) / bracket fungus

Parts:

rei(tama, dama, ryou) - soul / spirit / departed soul / ghost

shi(shiba) - lawn / turf / sod / grass

*Note 1: in Japanese, this is also known as マンネンタケ or 万年茸 (man'nentakake).

Chinese Pinyin: língzhī

Chinese Meaning: lingzhi or reishi mushroom (Ganoderma lucidum) (formerly Fomes japonicus)

Parts:

líng - spirit / (departed) soul / spiritual world / god / deity / holy or supernatural being / miraculous / mysterious / quick / alert / bright / quick-witted / clever / sharp (mind) / nimble / agile / deft / adroit / smooth / efficacious / effective / works well / coffin / bier / thing concerning the deceased

zhī - Zoyzia pungens / sesame / a purplish or brown mushroom (Ganoderma lucidum) used in traditional Asian medicine and believed to have miraculous powers / 'a divine and felicitous plant' (Karlgren) / purplish mushroom symbolising nobility / a kind of fragrant herb / (used in transliteration)

*Note 2: another variant of the first character is 霽

訊問

May 7, 2015

Japanese Romaji: jinmon

Japanese Meaning: cross-examination / interrogation / questioning

Parts:

jin(ki, tazu) - investigate / to question / to request

mon(to, toi, ton) - to ask / problem / question / inquire / query / counter for questions

Chinese Pinyin: xùnwèn

Chinese Meaning: to interrogate / to question / to cross-examine / to ask about / correspondence

Chinese to Japanese Translation: ご挨拶 (goaisatsu) for general, non-forceful, "correspondence"

Parts:

xùn - to question / to ask after / to inquire / to enquire / to interrogate / to examine / reproach / rapid / speedy / fast / news / information / message / dispatch

wèn - to ask (about) / inquire after / interrogate / examine / hold responsible

*Note: in Japanese, this is more commonly written as 尋問. In Chinese, a similar word is 尋問 (xúnwèn).

釣竿

May 8, 2015

Japanese Romaji: tsurizao

Japanese Meaning: fishing rod

Parts:

tsuri(tsu, dzu, dzuri, chou) - to fish / fishing / angling / catch / catching / allure / ensnare / change (e.g. for a purchase) / small cash

zao(sao, kan) - pole / rod / neck (of a shamisen, violin, etc.) / shamisen / beam (i.e. the crossbar of a balance) / scale beam / single line (esp. as a flying formation for geese) / counter for flags (on poles) / counter for long, thin Japanese sweets (e.g. youkan) / counter for poles, rods, etc.

*Note: in Japanese, this word is also written as: 釣り竿, 釣りざお, 釣ざお

Chinese Pinyin: diàogān

Chinese Meaning: fishing rod / a fish pole

Parts:

diào - to fish with a hook and bait / to angle / fishhook / tempt / lure

gān - bamboo pole / rod / counter for bamboo

岳父

May 9, 2015

Japanese Romaji: gakufu

Japanese Meaning: (man's) father-in-law / father of one's wife

Japanese to Chinese Translation: see note 3

Parts:

gaku(take, dake) - tall mountain / mountain peak / point

fu(chichi, tou, toto) - father

*Note 1: in Japanese, お祖父さん (grandfather, or male senior citizen) is read as “ojiisan”

Chinese Pinyin: yuèfù

Chinese Meaning: (man's) father-in-law / wife's father

Chinese to Japanese Translation: see note 3

Parts:

yuè - wife's parents and paternal uncles / mountain peak / high mountain / great mountain

fù - father / male relative of a senior generation / a term of respect for an elderly man / (archaism) one's courtesy name

*Note 2: 岳 is a variant and the simplified Chinese version of 嶽. For this project, I am counting them as two characters.

*Note 3: relatives in Japanese and Chinese have significantly more titles than in English and they can depend on at least the following things: paternal or maternal, gender (of you and of the relative), order of birth, degree of kinship, generation, or blood relation. Also, there can be small differences depending on whether you are talking to the relative, or talking about them, and how close you are to the person. I will not attempt to describe these differences.

叔母

May 10, 2015

Japanese Romaji: oba / shukubo

Japanese Meaning: aunt (parents' younger sister) / the wife of a parent's younger brother

Japanese to Chinese Translation: see note 3

Parts:

o(shuku) - uncle (younger than parent) / youth

ba(haha, kaa, bo, mo) - mother

*Note 1: in Japanese, when informally talking to people who are around the same age or generation as their parents, females are usually called おばさん (obasan). This can be written differently with different nuances as: 叔母さん (younger sister of a parent); 伯母さん (older sister of a parent); 小母さん (unrelated females). In contrast, males are usually called おじさん (ojisan). This can be written as: 叔父さん (younger brother of a parent); 伯父さん (older brother of a parent); 小父さん (unrelated males).

*Note 2: in Japanese, お祖母さん (grandmother, or female senior citizen) is read as "obaasan"

Chinese Pinyin: shūmǔ

Chinese Meaning: aunt (wife of father's younger brother)

Chinese to Japanese Translation: see note 3

Parts:

shū(shú) - younger brothers of one's father / paternal uncles / younger brothers of one's husband (brother-in-law) / a general designation for members of one's father's generation who are younger than one's father / third among brothers / declining

mǔ - mother / female parent / elderly female relative / female elders (in the clan or among relations) / origin / parent / source / (of animals) female

*Note 3: relatives in Japanese and Chinese have significantly more titles than in English and they can depend on at least the following things: paternal or maternal, gender (of you and of the relative), order of birth, degree of kinship, generation, or blood relation. Also, there can be small differences depending on whether you are talking to the relative, or talking about them, and how close you are to the person. I will not attempt to describe these differences.

*Note 4: a variant of the first character is 未

黒痣/黒

May 11, 2015

Japanese Romaji: kuroaza

Japanese Meaning: black mole / beauty mark

Parts:

kuro(koku) - black / dark / (manga slang) bad guy, 'black hat' / guilt / the guilty one / the guilty party

aza - birthmark / mole (on the skin) / nevus / bruise

*Note: in Japanese, this word is also written as 黒あざ. A more common term is ほくろ/黒子 (hokuro). [黒子 is also read as “kuroko”/“kurogo” and means “behind-the-scenes supporter” or “stagehand” when read this way.]

Chinese Pinyin: hēizhì

Chinese Meaning: mole (on the skin)

Parts:

hēi - black / dark / evil / sinister / wicked / gloomy (face) / glum / secret / shady / unlawful / (loanword) to hack

zhì - birthmark / mole (on the skin) / spots / nevus / naevus

桔梗

May 12, 2015

Japanese Romaji: kikyō

Japanese Meaning: Chinese bellflower / *Platycodon grandiflorum* / balloon flower

Parts:

ki(gi) - used in plant names

kyō(kou) - close up / flower stem / for the most part

*Note 1: in Japanese, this is also written as キキョウ

Chinese Pinyin: jiégěng

Chinese Meaning: Chinese bellflower / *Platycodon grandiflorum* / balloon flower

Parts:

jié(jú) - *Platycodon grandiflorus* / Chinese bellflower / the inner fibers of corn-stalks / water bucket / a well sweep / (archaism) mechanical tool for drawing water from a well / (medicine) root of balloon flower

gěng - branch of plant / stem of flower / stalk / a stick / obstruct / to block / to hinder / straighten up / stiffen up / upright / fair-minded / honest / (Cantonese) stiff, tight, unsmooth / (Cantonese) certainly, definitely, unavoidably

*Note 2: the first character is also a variant of 橘

締約

May 13, 2015

Japanese Romaji: teiyaku

Japanese Meaning: conclusion of a treaty

Parts:

tei(shi, shime, shima, shimari, ji, jime, jima) - to fasten / to lock / to shut / to tie / tighten

yaku(tsudzu, tsudzuma) - approximately / about / a promise / shortening / reduction / simplification / shrink / contraction (phonetics)

Chinese Pinyin: dìyuē

Chinese Meaning: to conclude a treaty

Parts:

dì - closely joined / connection / knot / tie / join / connect / conclude / establish / to found / suppress / ban / restrict

yuē(yāo) - to make an appointment / engagement / date / rendezvous / to invite / arrange / approximately / about / around / pact / treaty / agreement / covenant / contract / to economize / to restrict / bind / restrain / to control / to reduce (a fraction) / concise / briefly / simply / simple / brief / economical / vaguely / poor / poverty / hardship / straitened / (slang) to weigh on a balance or on a scale

暴戾/戾

May 14, 2015

Japanese Romaji: bourei

Japanese Meaning: tyranny / atrocity

Parts:

bou(aba, baku) - outburst / outrage / rave / violence / cruelty / force / fret

rei(modō) -return / revert / restore / go backwards / resume / re-

Chinese Pinyin: bàolì

Chinese Meaning: ruthless / despotic and tyrannical / cruel and fierce / cruel and self-willed / brutally intractable

Parts:

bào(pù) - sudden / violent / cruel / fierce / brutal / tyrannical / to show / to expose / come out / reveal / to injure / ruin / spoil / corrode / hot-tempered / quick-tempered

lì - to bend / to violate / to go against / ruthless and tyrannical / perverse / recalcitrant / rebellious / unreasonable / atrocious / offence / sin / return / (Cantonese) falsely accuse, act perversely

曝露

May 15, 2015

Japanese Romaji: bakuro

Japanese Meaning: disclosure / exposure / revelation / bringing to light

Japanese to Chinese Translation: see note

Parts:

baku(sara, zara) - expose / to air / to refine / to bleach

ro(arawa, tsuyu, rou) - dew / tears / exposed / scanty / bare / unconcealed / naked / public / open /

(Abbreviation) Russia

Chinese Pinyin: pùlù

Chinese Meaning: to expose (to the air, light, weather, etc.) / to leave uncovered / exposure

Chinese to Japanese Translation: see note

Parts:

pù - to air / to sun / to air in the sun / expose or dry in the sun

lù(lòu) - dew / syrup / nectar / outdoors (not under cover) / to show / to reveal / to betray / to expose / bare / open / exposed / uncovered / be in the open / a cold soothing and aromatic drink / beverages or cosmetics distilled from flowers, fruits, or leaves / (Abbreviation) Russia

*Note: this word is also written as 暴露; both versions can mean “expose” literally to air, light, weather, germs, etc. or “expose” figuratively for secrets, weaknesses, problems, intentions, etc. However, the version without the 日 radical is more commonly used for the figurative meaning while the version with 日 is more commonly used with the literal meaning. In Chinese, the version without the 日 can be read as both “bàolù” or “pùlù”.

樹蔭

May 16, 2015

Japanese Romaji: juin / kokage

Japanese Meaning: shade of a tree / bower

Parts:

ju(ki, ko) - tree / wood / timber / plant

in(kage) - shade / shadow / other side / back / background / backing assistance

Chinese Pinyin: shùyìn

Chinese Meaning: shade of a tree

Parts:

shù - tree / to plant / cultivate / set up / establish / to erect / door screen

yìn - shade / shelter / protect / damp and chilly / sunless / confer honours on one's descendants

*Note 1: this word is also written as 樹陰 in Japanese and Chinese (shùyīn). In Japanese, the “kokage” reading is more commonly written as 木陰, 木蔭, or 木かげ.

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 廕

滄海

May 28, 2015

Japanese Romaji: soukai

Japanese Meaning: blue waters / vast ocean

Parts:

sou - ocean

kai(umi) - ocean / sea / beach / maritime

*Note 1: 海苔 (edible seaweed) is read as “nori”; 海胆 (sea urchin) is read as “uni”; 海老 (prawn, shrimp, or lobster”, etc.) is read as “ebi”; 海豹 (seal [animal]) is read as “azarashi”; 海豚 (dolphin) is read as “iruka”; 海獺/海獺 (sea otter) is read as “rakko”

Chinese Pinyin: cānghǎi

Chinese Meaning: the blue sea / vast ocean / large ocean

Parts:

cāng - blue-green or azure (of water) / vast (of water) / blue / dark green / deep green / cold

hǎi - ocean / sea / maritime / a huge gathering (of people, etc.) / great number of people or things coming together / area / field / great / unlimited

*Note 2: in Japanese and Chinese, this word can also be written as 蒼海

*Note 3: this word is used in various idioms, such as:

滄海桑田 (J: soukaisouden, C: cānghǎisāngtián): the swift changes of the world (as the blue sea changing into a mulberry field).

桑田滄海 (J: soudensoukai, C: sāngtiāncānghǎi): the swift changes of the world (as a mulberry field changing into a blue sea).

滄海遺珠 (C: cānghǎiyízhū): undiscovered talent (a pearl in the boundless sea)

滄海一粟 (C: cānghǎiyīsù): infinitely small, a drop in the ocean (a grain in the boundless sea)

曾經滄海 (C: céngjīngcānghǎi): widely experienced in the vicissitudes of life (having crossed the vast ocean)

驟雨

May 29, 2015

Japanese Romaji: shuu'u

Japanese Meaning: sudden shower (rain)

Parts:

shuu - suddenly / run

u(ama, ame, same, gure) - rain

*Note 1: 梅雨 (Japanese rainy season) is read as "tsuyu" or "dzuyu".

Chinese Pinyin: zhòuyǔ

Chinese Meaning: shower (rain) / a sudden rainstorm / a rain shower

Parts:

zhòu(zòu) - sudden / unexpected / abrupt / suddenly / abruptly / gallop / trot / procedure

yǔ(yù) - rain / rainy / to rain / to fall (of snow, rain, etc.) / to precipitate / to wet

*Note 2: this word specifically describes rain that is short, sudden, and strong.

*Note 3: a variant of the second character is 沇

颶風

May 30, 2015

Japanese Romaji: gufuu

Japanese Meaning: hurricane / typhoon / tornado

Japanese to Chinese Translation: see note 2

Parts:

gu - storm

fuu(kaza, kaze, fu, bu, puu) - wind / air / gust / breeze / gale / a movement of air / manner / style / method / a way / appearance / an air / tendency / folk song (genre of the Shi Jing)

*Note 1: in Japanese, 風邪 (a cold) is read as “kaze”

Chinese Pinyin: jùfēng

Chinese Meaning: hurricane / a gale / cyclone / typhoon

Chinese to Japanese Translation: see note 2

Parts:

jù - hurricane / cyclone / typhoon / gale / strong gusts at sea

fēng - wind / air / gust / breeze / gale / customs / practices / tendency / manners / atmosphere / style / bearing / attitude / taste / fame / reputation / news / information / rumor / rumour / scenery / view / landscape / sickness (caused by wind and dampness) / certain disease supposedly caused by wind

*Note 2: in Japanese and Chinese, this is number 12 on the Beaufort wind scale. Common words for different types of strong winds include:

Hurricane: ハリケーン (J: harikein); 颶風 (C: jùfēng)

Typhoon: 台風 (J: taifuu); 颱風 (C: táifēng)

Tornado: 竜巻 (J: tatsumaki); 龍捲風/龍卷風 (C: lóngjuǎnfēng)

*Note 3: 3 variants of the second character are 風 颶 丰

緘黙/黙

May 31, 2015

Japanese Romaji: kanmoku

Japanese Meaning: keeping silent

Parts:

kan - to seal / shut

moku(dama) - silence / become silent / stop speaking / leave as is

Chinese Pinyin: jiānmò

Chinese Meaning: to keep silent / to be reticent

Parts:

jiān - to close / to shut / to bind / keep silent / to seal / letters

mò - silent / quiet / still / tacit / dark / to write from memory

*Note: a variant of the first character is 械. Another variant of the second character is 穆

壁龕

June 1, 2015

Japanese Romaji: hekigan

Japanese Meaning: niche (in Western architecture) / alcove

Parts:

heki(kabe, peki) - wall / barrier / fence / (stomach) lining

gan - niche or alcove for an image

Chinese Pinyin: bìkān

Chinese Meaning: niche (in a wall) / alcove

Parts:

bì - wall / partition walls / barrier / rampart / breastwork / cliff

kān - niche / shrine

松籟

June 2, 2015

Japanese Romaji: shourai

Japanese Meaning: (the sound of) the wind through pine trees

Parts:

shou(matsu) - pine tree / highest (of a three-tier ranking system) / a pine branch decorated for the celebration of New Year

rai - rattling of the wind

Chinese Pinyin: sōnglài

Chinese Meaning: (the sound of) the wind through pine trees

Parts:

sōng - pine tree / fir tree

lài - various sounds / noise / music / bamboo flute / musical pipe with 3 reeds / ancient musical pipe

*Note: 3 variants of the first character are 松 栢 案 It is also the simplified Chinese version of 鬆

顫動

June 3, 2015

Japanese Romaji: sendou

Japanese Meaning: vibration / to tremble / to shake

Parts:

sen(furu, buru) - shudder

dou(ugo) - motion / movement / move / action / shake / to shift / change / confusion

Chinese Pinyin: chàndòng

Chinese Meaning: to shake / to tremble / to quiver / to shiver / to vibrate

Parts:

chàn(zhàn) - to tremble / trembling / to shiver / to shake / to vibrate / quaver / shudder

dòng - motion / movement / (of something) to move / to set in movement / action / to act / to do /
happen / to displace / to make use of / to stir (emotions) / touch (one's heart) / arouse / excite / to
move (emotions) / to alter / change / take up / eat or drink

逝去

June 4, 2015

Japanese Romaji: seikyo

Japanese Meaning: death

Japanese to Chinese Translation: see note 1

Parts:

sei(i, yu) - departed / die

kyo(sa, ko) - past / gone / leave / quit / eliminate / elapse / divorce

Chinese Pinyin: shìqù

Chinese Meaning: to elapse / elapsed / passing / to pass away / to be gone / to depart / to die / demise

Chinese to Japanese Translation: see note 1

Parts:

shì - (of time) to pass / to die / pass away / vanish / depart

qù(qu) - to go / to go to (a place) / go away / leave (for) / depart from / past / gone / previous / last / distance / to cause to go or send (somebody) / to remove / to get rid of / do away with / give up / (when used either before or after a verb) to go in order to do something / to be apart from in space or time / (after a verb of motion indicates movement away from the speaker) / (used after certain verbs to indicate detachment or separation) / (verb particle indicating direction) / (phonetics) departing tone / (of a time or an event etc.) just passed or elapsed

*Note 1: this is a very formal and polite way to speak of someone's death. In Japanese, it is more polite to say 逝去 (goseikyo). In Chinese, this word also includes the "passing away" or loss of intangible things (such as time, love, youth, opportunities, etc.)

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 去

韜略

June 5, 2015

Japanese Romaji: touryaku

Japanese Meaning: strategy / tactics / originally refers to military classics Six Secret Teachings 六韜 and Three Strategies 三略

Parts:

tou - bag / wrapping

ryaku(habu, hobo) - abbreviation / omission / shorten / capture / plunder / outline / almost / roughly / approximately

Chinese Pinyin: tāolüè

Chinese Meaning: military strategy / military tactics / originally refers to military classics Six Secret Teachings 六韜 and Three Strategies 三略

Parts:

tāo - bow case or scabbard / sheath / to hide / to conceal / military strategy / tactics / idle

lüè - plan / strategy / scheme / outline / summary / brief account / omit / delete / leave out / slightly / somewhat / a little / rather / to rob / to plunder / capture / seize / to summarize / approximately / roughly

*Note: 2 more variants of the first character are 韜 and 韜. A variant of the second character is 畧

猜疑

June 6, 2015

Japanese Romaji: saigi

Japanese Meaning: suspicion / jealousy

Parts:

sai(sone) - doubt / envy / jealousy

gi(utaga, utagu) - distrust / doubt / question / be suspicious / suspicion (of)

Chinese Pinyin: cāiyí

Chinese Meaning: to suspect / to have misgivings / suspicious / misgivings / suspicion / to doubt / feel
jealous / take a strong dislike to a person

Parts:

cāi - to guess / conjecture / to suppose / to feel / to suspect / to doubt / cruel and suspicious / clue

yí - to doubt / to misbelieve / to suspect / to question / doubtful / dubious / skeptical / suspicious /
strange / incomprehensible / mysterious / questionable / sham / dummy / false

清澄

June 7, 2015

Japanese Romaji: seichou

Japanese Meaning: clear / serene

Parts:

sei(su, kiyo, shi, shou, shin) - cleanse / pure / purify / exorcise / Qing (dynasty of China) / Ch'ing /

Manchu Dynasty

chou(su, zu, sumashi, sumi) - be clear / clear / clarify / lucidity / settle / strain / look grave

Chinese Pinyin: qīngchéng

Chinese Meaning: limpid

Parts:

qīng - clear / pure / clean / fresh / just and honest / virtuous / distinct / clarified / explicit / simple / easily understandable / quiet / silent / still / peaceful / to settle or clear up / to clean up or purge / purify / arrange / place in order / brief / scarce / conclude / terminate / repay (debts) / settle / Qing or Ch'ing dynasty of Imperial China

chéng(dèng) - (of water) clear / transparent / limpid / clear up / to clarify / to purify / pure / (of liquid) to settle / to become clear / purify water by allowing sediment to settle / pour out the liquid / strain

*Note: a variant of the first character is 清. A variant of the second character is 澈

渗透

June 8, 2015

Japanese Romaji:shintou

Japanese Meaning: permeation / infiltration / penetration / percolation / soaking / osmosis

Japanese to Chinese Translation: see note

Parts:

shin(shi, niji) - imbued with

tou(su, too) - transparent / filter / penetrate / permeate

Chinese Pinyin: shèntòu

Chinese Meaning: to permeate / to infiltrate / to penetrate / to pervade / to percolate / to seep through / osmosis

Chinese to Japanese Translation: see note

Parts:

shèn - to seep / soak through / infiltrate / to ooze / exude / percolate / to horrify

tòu - transparent / to penetrate / to pass through / to seep through / thoroughly / fully / completely / to appear / to show / to look / reveal / divulge / leak out

*Note: this word can refer to something literally permeating through a material (such as liquids through clothing) or figuratively spreading (such as ideology, technology, etc.) An alternative to this word is 浸透 (J: shintou; C: jìntòu). In Japanese, this alternative is more commonly used.

燎原

June 9, 2015

Japanese Romaji: ryougen

Japanese Meaning: agricultural burning / setting a field ablaze

Parts:

ryou - bonfire / burn

gen(hara, bara, wara) - original / primitive / primary / fundamental / raw / field / plain / prairie / meadow / tundra / moor / wilderness / suffixed to words indicating a class of people to create a plural (esp. in impolite contexts)

Chinese Pinyin: liáoyuán

Chinese Meaning: to start a prairie fire / to set the prairie ablaze / to get out of control like a prairie fire

Parts:

liáo(liǎo, liào) - to burn over a wider and wider area / to set fire to / to set afire / to be brilliant / to illuminate / a signal lamp / to singe

yuán - original / primary / raw / former / level / cause / source / origin / beginning / steppe / vast plain / field / meadow / tundra / prairie / wilderness / graveyard / excuse / pardon

*Note 1: this word appears in the Chinese idiom:

星星之火可以燎原 (xīngxīngzhīhuǒ, kěyǐliáoyuán) - a single spark can start a huge blaze (an insignificant cause can have a massive effect)

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 寮. A variant of the second character is 原

味蕾

June 10, 2015

Japanese Romaji: mirai

Japanese Meaning: taste buds

Parts:

mi(aji, bi) - flavor / flavour / taste / charm / style / experience / smart / clever / witty / strange / (suffix)
-ness / any degree of being / (sense of) taste / counter for food, drink, medicine, etc.

rai(tsubomi, tsubo) - bud (plants, mushrooms not yet opened) / flower bud

Chinese Pinyin: wèilěi

Chinese Meaning: taste buds

Parts:

wèi - flavor / flavour / taste / smell / odor / odour / delicacy / dainty

lěi - buds / unopened flowers / flower bud

嗤笑

June 11, 2015

Japanese Romaji: shishou

Japanese Meaning: sneer / scoff

Parts:

shi(wara) - ridicule / mock / make fun of / laugh

shou(e, wara) - laugh

Chinese Pinyin: chīxiào

Chinese Meaning: to sneer at / to laugh or chuckle sneeringly / to scoff / ridicule / jeer

Parts:

chī - laugh at / jeer / scoff at / sneer at / ridicule / snort / laugh scornfully

xiào - laugh / smile / giggle / snicker / titter / grin / chuckle / ridicule / deride / jeer

*Note: a variant of the second character is 咲, which is a separate character in Japanese

闖入

June 12, 2015

Japanese Romaji: chin'nyuu

Japanese Meaning: intrusion / forced entry / to break in upon / to gate-crash

Parts:

chin - inquire about

nyuu(i, iri, hai, ju, shio) - to enter / insert / (archaism) counter for soakings (of fabric in a dye)

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is also written as ちん入

*Note 2: in Japanese, 入梅 (entering the rainy season) is read as "tsuyuiiri"

Chinese Pinyin: chuǎngrù

Chinese Meaning: to intrude / to charge in / to gate-crash / interlope / intrush

Parts:

chuǎng - to rush in / to charge in / to dash / to break through / to burst in / go around / rush about / to temper oneself (through battling hardships) / incur / invite / cause (a disaster, etc.)

rù - to enter / to go into / come in(to) / to get in / to join / to become a member of / to come into the company of / to confirm / to agree with / conform to / to arrive at / to reach / put in / receipts / income / get out of sight / disappear / get (inside, picked, elected, etc.) / one of the four tones of a character

*Note 3: do not confuse the second character with 人

眼瞼

June 13, 2015

Japanese Romaji: ganken

Japanese Meaning: eyelid

Parts:

gan(manako, me, gen) - eye / eyeball / eyesight / pupil / sight / vision / look / stare / glance / an experience / viewpoint / stitch / texture / weave / ordinal number suffix / somewhat / -ish / (archaism) pupil and (dark) iris of the eye / (archaism) insight, perceptivity, power of observation / (archaism) look, field of vision / (archaism) core, center, centre, essence
ken(mabuta) - eyelid / eyelids / (figuratively) memory

Chinese Pinyin: yǎnjiǎn

Chinese Meaning: eyelid

Parts:

yǎn - eye / look / glance / ocular / eyelet / small hole / tiny hole / opening / aperture / insight / salient point / crux (of a matter) / trap (in chess) / unaccented beat (in opera) / counter for big hollow things (wells, stoves, pots, springs, etc.) / (Cantonese) counter for needles, nails, lamps, etc. / (Cantonese) eyesight
jiǎn - eyelid / eyelids

*Note: in Japanese, eyelids are more commonly known as 瞼 or 目蓋 (mabuta). In Chinese, a common alternative is 眼皮 (yǎnpí).

赧顏/顏

June 14, 2015

Japanese Romaji: tanga

Japanese Meaning: blushing (with shyness) / flushed face

Parts:

tan(aka) - get red

gan(kao, gao, kanbase) - face (person) / expression / honor (honour) / dignity / reputation / (archaism)
countenance, visage

Chinese Pinyin: nǎnyán

Chinese Meaning: blushing / shamefaced

Parts:

nǎn - turn red / to blush

yán - face / facial appearance / facial expression / countenance / color / pigment / paint / prestige /
dignity / reputation / honor / honour

*Note: 顔色 (kaoiro) means “expression of one’s face” or “complexion” in Japanese, whereas 顏色 (yánsè) generally means “color” (red, orange, yellow, etc.) in Chinese.

貽貝

June 15, 2015

Japanese Romaji: igai

Japanese Meaning: Korean mussel (*Mytilus coruscus*) / hard-shelled mussel / Mytiloida order, Mytilidae family, etc.

Japanese to Chinese Translation: 厚殼貽貝 (hòuqiàoyíbèi) for the species “*Mytilus coruscus*”

Parts:

i - gift / leave behind

gai(kai, bai) - shellfish / shell / Japanese babylon (species of shelled mollusk, *Babylonia japonica*) /

Japanese ivory shell / spinning top (traditionally made from a Japanese babylon shell)

*Note 1: in Japanese, this is more commonly written as イガイ

Chinese Pinyin: yíbèi

Chinese Meaning: mussel (Mytiloida order, Mytilidae family, etc.)

Chinese to Japanese Translation: ムール (muuru) or イガイ (igai) for the common term of “mussel”

Parts:

yí - to present / to bequeath / give to / hand down

bèi - shellfish / shells / sea shell / cowrie used as money / currency (archaic) / money

*Note 2: a variant of the first character is 詒. A variant of the second character is 蜆

膂力

June 16, 2015

Japanese Romaji: ryoryoku

Japanese Meaning: physical strength / the strength of one's muscles

Parts:

ryo - backbone

ryoku(chikara, riki) - power / strength / energy / force / might / vigor / vigour / strong / strain / effort / endeavours / endeavors / exert / exertions / bear up / capability / ability / proficiency / capacity / faculty / efficacy / effect / authority / influence / good offices / agency / support / help / aid / assistance / stress / emphasis / means / resources

Chinese Pinyin: lǚlì

Chinese Meaning: one's physical strength / bodily strength / brawn

Parts:

lǚ - backbone / spinal column / strength

lì - power / strength / force / strong / vigor / ability / capability / influence / strain / exert / strenuously / earnestly / vigorously / do one's best

*Note: a variant of the first character is 膂

爆轟

June 17, 2015

Japanese Romaji: bakugou

Japanese Meaning: detonation

Parts:

baku(ha) - bomb / burst open / explode / pop / split / exclamation / burst of laughter

gou(todoro) - boom / resound / roar / thunder

*Note 1: in Japanese, this is also written as 爆ごう

Chinese Pinyin: bàohōng

Chinese Meaning: detonation / explosion

Parts:

bào - bomb / to explode / to burst / to blow up / blow out / crackle / pop / occur unexpectedly / break out / quick-fry / quick-boil / (Cantonese) disclose, expose, reveal / (Cantonese) burgle, burglarize / (Cantonese) full to capacity, a full house

hōng - explosion / bang / blast / boom / rumble / bombard / roar / explode / to attack / to shoo away / drive off (something or someone) / oust from / to expel / grand / spectacular / vigorous

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 轟

牽強

June 18, 2015

Japanese Romaji: kenkyou

Japanese Meaning: distortion of facts

Parts:

ken(hi) - pull / tug / to drag / lead by hand

kyou(kowa, shi, shitata, tsuyo, dzuyo, gou, ne) - strong / powerful / potent / durable / a little over / a little more than / powerhouse / one of the biggest / one of the most powerful

Chinese Pinyin: qiānqiǎng

Chinese Meaning: (said of an interpretation, etc.) forced / unnatural / far-fetched / implausible (chain of reasoning)

Parts:

qiān - to lead along / to pull (an animal on a tether) / to drag / lead by hand / (bound form) to involve / implicate / entangle / to draw in / hold up / restrict / pin down

qiǎng(qiáng, jiàng) - to force / to compel / coerce / to strive / to make an effort / strive / try hard to / strong / powerful / better than / slightly more than / plus / resolute / energetic / vigorous / violent / best in their category / strengthen / make strong / capable / of a high standard / endeavor / defiant / stubborn / unyielding

*Note 1: 牽強付会 (J: kenkyoufukai) and 牽強附會 (C: qiānqiǎngfùhuì) roughly mean “to give a forced interpretation” or “forced analogy”.

*Note2: 2 variants of the second character are 疆 and 犖

鑽孔/鑽

June 19, 2015

Japanese Romaji: sankou

Japanese Meaning: boring (a hole) / punching

Japanese to Chinese Translation: see note 1

Parts:

san(ki, tagane) - make fire by rubbing sticks / chisel

kou(ana, ku) - hole / slit / cavity / great / very / exceedingly / deficit / shortage / missing person (in a team, meeting, etc.) / vacancy / opening / flaw / profitable place (or item, etc.) not well known by others / upset victory (with a large payoff) / (slang) pit (of a theater) / (archaism) hiding place / (archaism) underbelly (of society, etc.)

Chinese Pinyin: zuānkǒng

Chinese Meaning: to bore a hole / to drill a hole / drilled hole / make a hole / perforate / broach

Chinese to Japanese Translation: see note 1

Parts:

zuān(zuàn, zuǎn) - to drill / to bore (a hole) / to pierce / perforate / to dig into / to dig through / to penetrate / to get into / to make one's way into / to go through / to enter (a hole) / to thread one's way through / to study intensively / to bury oneself in / to curry favor for personal gain / to gain (profit, a position, etc.) through special favor, contacts, relations, etc. / secure personal gain / worm one's way into something / an auger / gimlet / awl / a borer / a drill / driller / drilling device / diamond / a jewel

kǒng - hole / opening / orifice / aperture / bore / great / very / exceedingly / urgent / badly / counter for cave dwellings / of or pertaining to Confucius or Confucianism

*Note 1: the Japanese term is commonly used to refer to the punched tape (鑽孔テープ sankou teepu) used in old-fashioned computing. The Chinese term more commonly refers to “drilling” or “boring” holes (into materials or the ground).

*Note 2: the second version of the first character is rare.

流涕

June 20, 2015

Japanese Romaji: ryuutei

Japanese Meaning: crying / delacrimation

Parts:

ryuu(naga, ru) - flow / current / a sink / forfeit / style of / method of / manner of / school (of thought)

tei(namida) - tears / tear / lachrymal secretion / sympathy

*Note: in Japanese, 流離う (to wander) is read as “sasurau”; 流行る (to spread; to become popular, etc.) is read as “hayaru”.

Chinese Pinyin: liútì

Chinese Meaning: to cry / to sob / to shed tears / runny nose

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 鼻水の垂れている鼻 (hanamizu no tareteiru hana) for “runny nose”

Parts:

liú - to flow / to disseminate / to circulate / to spread / to discharge / to move / to drift / to wander / to stray / to degenerate / to banish / to send into exile / stream of water or something resembling one / class / rate / rank / grade / branch / division / unsettled / unfixed / mobile / style of / (Cantonese)

untrue, false, inferior quality

tì - tears / nasal mucus / snivel

夏蟬/蟬

June 21, 2015

Japanese Romaji: natsuzemi

Japanese Meaning: summer cicadas

Parts:

natsu(ka, ge) - summer / Xia (dynasty of China; perhaps mythological)

zemi(semi, sen, zen) - cicada / locust

Chinese Pinyin: xiàchán

Chinese Meaning: summer cicadas

Parts:

xià - summer / great / grand / big / spacious / a big house / mansion / the Xia or Hsia dynasty c. 2000 BC

chán - cicada / continuous

*Note 1: a variant of the first character is 𪛗

*Note 2: I found a page full of Japanese cicada sounds and some onomatopoeia (擬音語 giongo) for different species:

<http://uns.music.coocan.jp/semi.html>

島嶼

June 22, 2015

Japanese Romaji: tousho

Japanese Meaning: islands

Parts:

tou(shima, jima) - island / Island (in placenames) / territory (of a prostitute, organized crime gang, etc.) / turf

sho - small island

Chinese Pinyin: dǎoyǔ

Chinese Meaning: islands / islets and islands

Parts:

dǎo - island / isle

yǔ - islet / small island

*Note: Variants of the first character include 寫 and 嶋, which are used in some Japanese names.

Other variants of the second character are 島嶼

無聊

June 23, 2015

Japanese Romaji: buryou / muryou

Japanese Meaning: boredom / tedium / ennui

Parts:

bu(mu, na) - not / none / no / nothing / nothingness / nil / naught / ain't / nought / zero / un- / non- / bad... / poor... / (Buddhism) The null set: neither yes nor no (in response to a koan or other question that mistakenly assumes an affirmative or negative answer)

ryou(isasa) - slightly

Chinese Pinyin: wúliáo

Chinese Meaning: bored / boring / boredom / listless / ennui / (feeling) indifferent and uninteresting / senseless / nonsensical / silly / rubbish

Chinese to Japanese Translation: 馬鹿馬鹿しい (bakabakashii), ノンセンス (nonsensu), 下らない (kudaranai), etc. for “nonsensical”, “silly”, “nonsense”, “ridiculous”, “stupid”, etc.

Parts:

wú - not / none / no / to lack / not to have / have no / have not / un- / non- / -less / negative / without / destitute of / wanting / no matter what (or how) / not yet

liáo - slightly / somewhat / at least / just a little / tentatively / for the moment / temporarily / to chat / gab / chew the fat / to depend upon (literary) / rely on

*Note: a variant of the first character is 無

髻髮/髻

June 24, 2015

Japanese Romaji: binpatzu

Japanese Meaning: hair at the temples / hair at the sides of the head

Parts:

bin - sideburns

patzu(hatsu, kami, gami) - hair (of the human head)

Chinese Pinyin: bìn fà

Chinese Meaning: hair on the temples

Parts:

bìn - hair on the temples / temples (of the head)

fà(fǎ) - hair (of the human head) / hairbreadth

*Note: 2 variants of the first character are 髻 and 髻

聳立

June 25, 2015

Japanese Romaji: shouritsu

Japanese Meaning: being conspicuously tall / dominating

Parts:

shou(sobi, soso) - to rise / to tower

ritsu(ta, tachi, tate, da, dachi, date, ryuu) - rise / stand up / set up / erect

Chinese Pinyin: sǒnglì

Chinese Meaning: towering (of object placed high over something) / to tower aloft / to rise up steeply

Parts:

sǒng - to excite / to stir / to raise up / rise up / urge on / to shrug (one's shoulders, etc.) / high / lofty / towering / tower aloft / soar high / frighten / to alarm / horrify

lì - to stand / to set / to set up / let stand / to establish / to found / to build / to erect / to create / to start / to lay down / to draw up / to institute / to compose (legal document) / stand on one's own feet / upright / vertical / standing / appoint / designate / enthrone / to exist / to live / be present / at once / immediately / instantaneously

摇曳/搖

June 26, 2015

Japanese Romaji: youei

Japanese Meaning: flutter / flicker / waver / to drag / to trail / linger

Japanese to Chinese Translation: see note 1

Parts:

you(yu) - shake / sway / to swing / to rock / tremble / vibrate

ei(hi, hiki, bi, biki) - to pull / to jerk / tug / install / to admit / refer to / quote

Chinese Pinyin: yáoyè

Chinese Meaning: wavering gently / shaking / to flicker (of flame, light, etc.) / to sway / to swing / to bend (in the wind) / to oscillate / to flutter / free and untied / loose / (said of a girl's hips) to sway enticingly

Chinese to Japanese Translation: see note 1

Parts:

yáo - to shake / to rock / to row (a boat, etc.) / to swing / wag / to wave / to scull / sway (of one's confidence, determination, etc.) / wobble / agitate / incite / annoy

yè(yì) - to drag / to pull / to tow / to haul / to draw / to trail / (Cantonese) naughty, mischievous / (Cantonese) inferior, poor, substandard

*Note 1: in general, this word describes something that is swaying. The Japanese definition includes something trailing (such as smoke) or lingering (such as sound or emotions). The Chinese definition includes a sense of freedom (e.g. free and untied).

*Note 2: a variant of the second character is 曳

蜚語

June 27, 2015

Japanese Romaji: higo

Japanese Meaning: baseless rumor / baseless rumour / gossip / false report

Parts:

hi - beetle / cockroach

go(kata, gata) - language / speech / words / expressions / a term

Chinese Pinyin: fēiyǔ

Chinese Meaning: groundless rumor / unfounded gossip

Parts:

fēi(fěi) - rumoured / groundless / untrue / make a name (for oneself) / become famous / to fly / hover / gad-fly / cockroach / locust

yǔ(yù) - language / speech / dialect / words / expressions / saying / proverb / set phrase / sign / signal / speak / say / talk / tell

*Note: in Japanese and Chinese, this word is also written as 飛語. In Japanese, this alternative is more common. 流言蜚語 / 流言飛語 (J: ryuugenhigo; C: liúyánfēiyǔ) means “rumors and slanders” or “gossip”.

囑託/囑

June 28, 2015

Japanese Romaji: shokutaku

Japanese Meaning: commission / charge (a person with a task) / entrusting with a job / part-time (employee) / temporary employee / a temp / non-regular employee / a part-timer

Parts:

shoku - entrust / request / send a message

taku(kako, kakotsu) - consign /entrusting with / requesting / pretend / hint

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word can also be written as 属託

Chinese Pinyin: zhǔtuō

Chinese Meaning: to entrust a task to somebody else / to request a person to do something

Parts:

zhǔ - to enjoin / to implore / to urge / to order / to tell / to instruct / advise / leave word / advice / exhortation / instruction

tuō - to trust / to entrust / to be entrusted with / rely on / owe to / due to / ask / request / to act as trustee / commission / give as a pretext / plead

*Note 2: the Japanese version of the first character is also the simplified version of the Chinese character.

*Note 3: the second character has two versions in simplified Chinese. One of them is also a separate traditional Chinese character (托).

冕冠

June 29, 2015

Japanese Romaji: benkan

Japanese Meaning: crown in the form of a horizontal board with hanging decorations / imperial crown

Parts:

ben - crown in the form of a horizontal board with hanging decorations / imperial crown

kan(ka, kanmuri, kamu) - crown / diadem / coronet / cap (especially a traditional cap worn with sokutai or ikan clothing) / best / peerless / first / top kanji radical

Chinese Pinyin: miǎnguān

Chinese Meaning: crown in the form of a horizontal board with hanging decorations / imperial crown

Parts:

miǎn - crown in the form of a horizontal board with hanging decorations / imperial crown / royal crown / ceremonial cap / official hat / championship / first place

guān(guàn) - hat / crown / crest / comb / cap / headgear / hat-shaped thing (like chaplet, cockscomb, etc.) / corona / to put on a hat or cap / to be first / rank first / champion / first place / best / crown with / precede by / to dub

*Note: a variant of the first character is 𦘒

竣工

June 30, 2015

Japanese Romaji: shunkou

Japanese Meaning: completion (of construction)

Parts:

shun - end / finish

kou(ku, gu, takumi) - construction / craft / skill / work / art / workman / artisan / mechanic / carpenter / (factory) worker / means / idea

*Note 1: in Japanese, this word is also written as 竣功, しゅん工, しゅん功

Chinese Pinyin: jùn'gōng

Chinese Meaning: to complete a project (e.g. construction) / to finish work / the completion of a project

Parts:

jùn - finish / complete / terminate / end / quit

gōng - work / worker / workman / labor / labour / laborer / labourer / skill / profession / trade / industry / craft / be skilled in / shift / time used in doing a piece of work / day's work / engineering or building project / defense work / fine / delicate

*Note 2: the first character is kanji #2600. This word is #1600.

(Darker kanji are variants of previous kanji)

- White = not yet in a pair, Green = counter, Purple = variant character, Red = no pair exists

[illegible]

Unique Kanji/Hanzi Written: 2600

Japanese Kanji Remaining: 2138

Total Japanese Kanji: 4738

Chinese Hanzi Remaining: 2997

Total Chinese Hanzi: 5597